

EEC budget dispute near solution despite financial risk

Impromise in the dispute over size of Britain's EEC budget contribution appeared likely as a compromise of the Nine in Luxembourg yesterday could be based on a French

Plan to peg British payments

Michael Hornsby
Paris, April 27
The European Commission, which is in charge of the EEC budget, has proposed a plan to peg British payments to the level of the other member states. The plan, which is being discussed by the Nine, would mean that Britain's contribution to the EEC budget would be the same as that of the other member states. This would mean that Britain's contribution would be about £520m for three years, about half the estimate for this year. Despite fears of precipitating a financial crisis, the plan is being considered. The only qualification of the plan is that the British government must agree to accept a punitive tax on surplus milk production, but this was generally considered to be out of the question. European Commission officials shared the German alarm, though they took a slightly more sanguine view of the state of the EEC's resources. They calculated that the proposed farm price settlement would still leave more than £1,000m of revenue this year out of which to finance a reduction in Britain's contribution. Commission officials agreed, however, that even on the most optimistic forecasts, revenue would run out next year and face the Community with a new crisis. It has been a cardinal principle of all discussion by member states of the budget dispute so far that any settlement must be contained within the 1 per cent VAT limit. A ceiling on Britain's contribution of the kind proposed by France would have the advantage of isolating Britain from the purely budgetary consequences of a high farm price settlement.

rol group icized MP at ich march

Bradley
The Special Patrol Group (SPG) has been gradually but not the emergence of a police along the lines of the French riot police, Mr. Meacher, Labour MP for West, told a gathering at Trafalgar Square yesterday to commemorate the death of Mr. Blair Peach a year on. Meacher said the rise of the SPG in the last year was a trend which was a sign of a new class confrontation. He said the SPG was a "new breed" of police, one which was "not bound by the rules of the law". He said the SPG was a "new breed" of police, one which was "not bound by the rules of the law". He said the SPG was a "new breed" of police, one which was "not bound by the rules of the law".

Bogotá siege ends with Cuba flight

Havana, April 27—The guerrillas who occupied the Dominican Republic Embassy in Bogotá arrived today after ending their two-month occupation of the embassy. The 15 guerrillas, members of the FARC, fled to Havana after agreeing terms with Colombian Government officials. They were holding 16 diplomats as hostages in Bogotá, and at least 11 of them went on the flight to Cuba. Among them was Mr. Diego Asencio, the United States Ambassador to Colombia, who was flown on to Florida shortly after his arrival in Havana. Mr. Asencio said at Havana: "After the initial 72 hours, which was a very difficult and dangerous period, I was treated very cordially, very amiably, very cordially. So there were not any major problems after the initial period."

Dispute stops local papers

No morning provincial newspapers were published in England, Wales and Ireland today because of a dispute involving about 250,000 members of the National Graphical Association. Many of the 4,000 companies employing printers, general firms and newspaper publishers, are reticulating for the five-week campaign of industrial action by the NGA. The union is threatening to increase disruption of the national newspapers that have interests in the provincial press.

Gang warfare kills 9

The army has been called into central Kingston, Jamaica, to help control political gang warfare which has already claimed nine lives. There are fears that the violence may intensify before the late summer elections.

More Cubans flee

The number of refugees fleeing to the United States from Cuba increased despite heavy seas threatening small boats in the Florida Strait. The total number of Cuban refugees now in Florida is estimated at 3,000.

Narrow Kennedy win

Even after Senator Kennedy's narrow victory in the Michigan caucuses, political experts are assuming that President Carter will win the Democratic nomination for the presidential election, but that he must also win Mr. Kennedy's support.



Firemen fighting a blaze on a ship converted to a public house on the Thames in London yesterday. Report, page 4.

'Return or die' warning to Libyans in exile

By Michael Kippes
Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, has issued a "final warning" to what he called the survivors of the previous regime living abroad to return home immediately or "be liquidated". The inference is that Libya's revolutionary authorities are accepting responsibility for the killing of three Libyan exiles in Europe in the past two weeks. Two of the assassinations occurred in London and one in Rome. Addressing cadets at a military academy in Tripoli, Colonel Gaddafi said that the Libyans abroad should go immediately to Libya. He said that the Libyans abroad should go immediately to Libya. He said that the Libyans abroad should go immediately to Libya. He said that the Libyans abroad should go immediately to Libya.

Shocked US reporters see ayatollah pick through packaged bodies

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, April 27
The behaviour of an Iranian cleric in the full glare of American television cameras tonight looked likely to set the Iran crisis on an even more critical path. Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, a religious judge renowned for the pride he took in ordering more than 300 revolutionary executions, picked his way piece by piece through the charred remains of Americans killed in Friday's abortive rescue mission. Newspaper journalists were barred from the extraordinary spectacle inside the occupied United States Embassy in central Tehran, but news agency and television reporters, who were allowed in, emerged with a distinct sense of shock. It was the most gruesome thing I have ever witnessed, a reported for one of America's leading television networks said. It put anything I witnessed in Vietnam to shame. At several points the ayatollah was said to have been "staggering and sickening" as he worked his way methodically through nine cloth and plastic packages of the bodies. The Americans are said to have died in a fire after an aircraft and a helicopter collided in the Iranian desert on Friday. Helped by some of the student militants holding the American hostages, and by Revolutionary Guards, the ayatollah plucked out charred pieces of the bodies to show to the reporters. At one point he uncovered a rib cage, almost "stripped of flesh." A Revolutionary Guard used a penknife to pluck a jaw bone from another package. Then Ayatollah Khalkhali reached in with the penknife to bring out a blackened shape which he said was a watch. Clutching a red handkerchief to his nose to ward off the stench of the bodies, the ayatollah then produced a charred object which he pronounced to be a skull. Claiming that there were nine bodies instead of the eight servicemen, President Carter says were killed in the unsuccessful mission, the ayatollah declared: "This is a skull. There are nine heads. Maybe Mr. Carter will say some Americans have two heads." At least one of the three main American networks filming in Tehran said it would be giving considerable coverage to the event in its evening news programme. All the American correspondents who later saw video replays of the spectacle predicted that it would have a shattering effect on American public opinion. Ayatollah Khalkhali, who had flown with the bodies from the desert spot 258 miles south-east of Tehran where the Americans landed, was asked why he had shown the bodies in this manner. He replied: "The action of the American authorities led to the destruction of these people. We brought them here so that you could see the result of Carter's move. These are the documents of the crimes of America." As he spoke, a Revolutionary Guard once more dug into the carcasses with the penknife, this time bringing out a metal name-tag bearing the name Lyn Davis. The tag indicated that Davis was a Baptist. Brandishing aerial photographs allegedly found among the wreckage in the desert, the ayatollah also claimed that the Americans were not only plotting the rescue of the hostages but the "complete destruction" of Iran's Islamic republic—a view becoming increasingly popular among the ever-suspicious Iranians. Of the 14 landing points in Tehran, he said, one was ayatollah Khomeini's house, which they intended to destroy. "They wanted to destroy Tehran. If God had not come to the nation's help, the Islamic republic itself would have been destroyed."

EEC envoys return to Teheran but deadline stands

From David Wood
Luxembourg, April 27
The British Ambassador to Tehran and other ambassadors of the Nine will be back in post tomorrow, it was stated in a statement today. The foreign ministers attending the European summit had met to discuss by heads of government. The broad two-phase diplomatic and economic sanctions against Iran agreed here last week will continue. Nevertheless, there is an indication that the contacts between Washington and the EEC are now much closer, and that the EEC foreign ministers have advised a "flexible" diplomacy in Tehran should be given a chance to get the hostages to safety. But the deadline remains May 17 for the release of the hostages if Community sanctions are not to be escalated. President Giscard d'Estaing commented as he arrived today that the summit would show complete solidarity with the Americans. For their part, the British are fully accepting the American distinction between the ill-fated rescue attempt and support to military attack. There is a clear determination that the Nine should stand firm with the United States, although nobody denies that the economic cost may be incalculable. After dinner tonight, Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, apparently cautioned against calling a Western summit with President Carter present, on the argument that summit meetings raised expectations and could be counterproductive unless diplomatic preparations had ensured a useful afterglow. Nevertheless, the British Government was willing to discuss the calling of a summit, and obviously the American Administration will be brought into consultation.

Tenerife disaster jet's recorder found

From Frances Gibb
Tenerife, April 27
The cockpit voice recorder of the Dan-Air Boeing 727 which crashed in Tenerife on Friday, killing all 146 people on board, was found today. It is likely to provide a vital clue as to why the pilot did not follow the laid down approach procedure. Mr. Gordon Mathew, who is assisting the Spanish investigators with a seven-man team including dentists, pathologists, and an engineer from the Department of Trade's Accident Investigation Branch, said: "This box is usually one of the greatest contributory factors to the ease of an investigation." He said there were a number of possible causes for the crash, which were being studied, but he refused to say what they were. The investigation was not sufficiently advanced for reasonable conjecture, he said. The crash might have been caused by the aircraft being equipped with radar. Captain Robert Atkins, the airline's flight operations director and chief pilot, said today. With radar, it would have been possible for ground control to tell the pilot he was off course and heading for mountains. The airport, Los Rodeos, in the north of Tenerife, has only radio beacons to help guide aircraft. There is no way that an air traffic controller can alert a pilot if he misjudges his position. Captain Atkins denied, however, that the lack of precision radar was a serious difficulty. There was radar for the Canary Islands as a whole, although that could not detect an aircraft once it flew behind mountains. "In our view, the airport is perfectly safe." Captain Atkins said that Dan-Air, which flies about 4,500 people a week to the island, booked before the crash to switch some of its flights to the new airport. But it was intended to continue using Los Rodeos. The island's Governor, Señor Jesus Javier Rebollo, says the new airport was built not because of poor weather, but because for a few days a year bad weather made the latter unusable. Both airports were completely safe, he said. Investigators today were no nearer determining the cause of what was the worst disaster involving a British plane. Captain Atkins dismissed rumours that the plane was instructed at the last minute to head for the airport in the south. "The aircraft had been there earlier, had been there on 'Mayday' call in the last minutes after the plane's final contact with air traffic control at 13:19, and before it was due to land at 13:30." Captain Atkins said the pilot was experienced, with 14,000 flying hours, and had flown to the island many times. His previous flight being in January. Before joining Dan-Air in 1971, he had flown with the Royal Navy. The flight's data recorder has been found within the aircraft tail section, one of the largest pieces of the wreckage. It would seem that the pilot was saying whether the undercarriage was up or down but we do know there was no change in flight plan," Captain Atkins said. The site of the crash, which indicates the aircraft was travelling in a northerly direction when it hit the mountains, towards Los Rodeos, seems to lend support to that viewpoint. It would seem that the pilot completed a loop which he was intending to do before coming in to land, but did it over the land instead of over the sea. It is said that radar equipment could have helped prevent some of the seven big aircraft which have occurred at the airport since 1941, including the world's worst aviation disaster, the 1977 crash of two Boeing 747s.

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AUEW plan for Labour reforms urges non-elitist executive and local control of party funds

By Donald MacIntyre
Labour Reporter

The bulk of Labour Party funds would pass from the control of the National Executive Committee into the hands of constituency organizations under a far-reaching plan drawn up by leaders of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

The plan, which suggests a new composition for the NEC, proposes that unions should pay their affiliation fees through local branches to constituency parties instead of centrally to party headquarters.

The suggestions are contained in a seven-page document approved by the union's executive. It will not be made public until it is released to the 52 members of the union's policy-making national committee.

The committee will probably debate it in Blackpool tomorrow, two days before it is due to be addressed by Mr James Callaghan, the party leader.

Assuming the document is approved by the right-wing dominated committee, it will form the basis of the union's evidence to the Labour Party conference in July, and of resolutions seeking to commit the union's party conference delegation to the left-wing line on the three central issues which divided the 1979 party conference.

The executive of the AUEW, with 200,000 members, is Britain's second biggest union, and has been a major force in the method of electing the party leader, mandatory reselection of MPs by party general elections, and the union's opposition to changes in the NEC-drafted manifesto.

The role of the union at last year's party conference was critical when it voted against the first change and for the two latter ones.

What is unexpected, however, is the extent to which the union calls for a "radical restructuring" to end the "elitist" structure and rebuild a party of mass membership through a "major shift of resources

from party headquarters to local organizations".

The union leaders say the party is faced with the alternative of being a small one "which concentrates on policy with a massive structure of committees, sub-committees and study groups producing endless amounts of paper and statements", or being a "mass party of the workers in which millions can participate".

The document adds: "We believe we should pursue this alternative".

To that end it suggests constituency affiliation so that the union political levy can be used to provide "many more well-trained, well-equipped organizers throughout Britain constantly developing party membership and participation amongst the millions of trade union members and party supporters".

It comments that the party, facing a deficit of nearly £15m by the end of next year, has only 69 full-time agents compared with 300 in 1950.

The main proposal is that after paying their affiliation fees unions would be allowed to send an agreed number of delegates to a general constituency meeting which should be held at least twice a year and from which the general management committee would be elected. It would, however, be to the wider general meeting from the next year, to go to seek backing under any mandatory reselection procedure.

By so doing, the document says, an MP "should confidently seek such endorsement from the workers by the ganging up of a small nucleus of people to vote against him/her as the general meeting would have hundreds of ordinary constituency members present".

The radical proposals in the document have been collated by Mr Gerry Russell, the union's representatives on the party NEC, but most of them bear the unmistakable imprint

of Sir John Boyd, the union's general secretary, a veteran of internal battles in the party and one of its former chairmen.

Sir John and his colleagues make clear their belief that a strong local organization with "full-time agents with decent wages who could spend their time organizing and not running rallies and sweetstales" provides the best chance of bringing what they see as "moderate opinions of the majority of Labour supporters to bear on the party's policies".

In a less controversial proposal they suggest that the NEC, composed of 29 members of whom 12 are union representatives, should be changed into a 45-strong body, meeting no more than six times a year and composed in equal thirds of trade union representatives, MPs and lay activists.

The union representatives would be elected by union delegates to the annual party conference, the MPs from the Parliamentary Labour Party, while the "lay activists" would consist of 11 regional representatives, two local government ones, one elected from the party's women's conference and one Young Socialist member.

In view of the party's "desperate financial problems" the document says the party treasurer would cease to be a political office and would be selected "on the basis of who is best qualified for this job".

The document notes that in the general election last May, Labour lost much of its traditional support among skilled workers and other trade unionists. As Britain's economic plight under the Conservatives becomes more desperate and the social tensions uglier it gives the extremists on both the right and the left their opportunity.

A strong Labour Party can resist those pressures "but a weak Labour Party turned in on itself, riven by faction fighting, bankrupt and with membership reduced to tiny groups, will be swept away on a hostile tide".

Crime for pleasure: Lack of copyright and ease of reproduction lead to 'bootleg' cassette Record industry fights to silence £20m pirate market

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

In Victorian households the piano often held pride of place. On winter evenings families gathered to play and sing the latest songs. The sheet music they used was probably "pirated": copies of the legitimate publisher's work run off cheaply and sold on the streets.

Although the enactment of copyright laws at the turn of the century stifled the sheet music pirates, the growth of electronic home entertainment is spawning successors in a technological form of white-collar crime.

The video cassette played on the family television could be a new Hollywood film which has not even reached general release. The pop music cassette on the stereo system sounds like the genuine article but comes from its original producers via duplicating machines in Italy and Singapore.

Behind such products lies a criminal industry which has attracted organized crime in the

United States and a "heavyweight" criminals in Britain.

In both "audio crime" and "video crime" three factors have encouraged the operations. One is the weakness, even non-existence, of copyright laws in many countries. A second is the ease of mass-producing copies with the development of cassette and the third is the profits to be made when neither royalties nor studio costs have to be met.

In 1979, the British record industry estimates it lost £20m in sales through audio crime while in the United States the figure has been put at between £250m and £350m.

The oldest figure in the record industry's rogues gallery of audio criminals is the "bootlegger". For many years records have been made and sold of artists' sessions which have officially never been issued. Examples include the songs of a well-known pop group recorded when it was knocking on the doors of

various companies in search of a contract.

But with the appearance of better tape recording facilities the emphasis in bootlegging has turned to recording concerts and stereo broadcasts on radio. The quality is rarely good and bootlegging has remained the domain largely of the amateur. His professional colleagues are much more sophisticated.

The art of the pirate and the counterfeiter was recently displayed in the case of an executive in charge of the international Federation of Phonographic Industries. The cassette ranged from a humble Maltese recording described in crude ballpoint handwriting as the work of the "Beckes", to an Italian product including a forgery of the stamp used by the Italian authors' society to protect copyright.

The pirate simply copies the original recording and sells it under his own brand while the counterfeiter aims completely to reproduce the original, including its packaging.

The main pirate centre is Singapore. At least five large producers operate from there, adding their own brand marks, the initials "GMR", the sign of an open band and other logos, to copies of the original. The market lies in the Far East, the Middle East and North Africa, where copyright laws are negligible.

The operations have become so grand, dominating over 90 per cent of the cassette market in some countries, that catalogues with 300 or 400 titles are issued for a trade that generates £30m a year.

The piracy in Britain first appeared in the mid 1970s when federal legislation in the United States scared producers from dumping material in this side of the Atlantic. The United States is being affected by counterfeiting and executives of a large record company have recently been indicted in one case, and this too has spread to Britain although Italy

home of all manner of bootlegging organization. The bootlegging world of mouth-to-mouth transmission while the forgers off-sets like market is still prices at an off the beaten track art will a tidy profit to the pirate.

The battle, says a special investigation conducted by the FBI, is a costly one. Backed by the lawyers and forensics the team has seized eight million records since 1973, using a seizure procedure and in that time the groups have given up the investigations in cash become dam and have killed less than 15 for the courts last.

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Union call to end strike at Jaguar

By Our Labour Staff

Shop stewards are to recommend to 1,600 striking Jaguar workers that they return to work after a settlement formula was reached last night at the end of 16 hours of negotiations.

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Regional morning papers halted

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

No regional morning newspapers were published in England, Wales and Northern Ireland today, because of a National Graphical Association dispute affecting about 250,000 printers.

Most of the 4,000 paper and general printing companies are expected to lock out NGA members in retaliation for the five-week campaign of industrial action by the union. The NGA is threatening to spread the action to more national newspapers.

Yesterday's News of the World did not appear because of a walk-out by NGA members. Mr Joe Wade, NGA general secretary, said that firms which have already agreed to the union's demands will be exempt from any action. The union maintains that 1,700 firms, which employ 2 per cent of the union's representation in the industry, have signed deals.

The employers are questioning those figures. The British Printing Industries Federation says that about 90 of its 3,750 member companies have been



Mr Joe Wade: Some firms exempt from action.

its campaign in support of a claim for £80 a week minimum earnings and the introduction of a 37-hour week during the next 12 months. The employers have offered a £75-a-week minimum, plus a 37-hour week from July 1981.

Failure of talks held under the auspices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service at the end of last week has led both the employers and the union to believe that the dispute may continue for a while.

If the dispute does drag on it could prove costly for both sides. The union is paying £22 a week to members who have been suspended by the newspaper and about 250 general printing companies, although newspaper groups may be well placed to withstand a long dispute, some printing companies, large and small, may find themselves in difficulty.

The union's leaders will meet in Bedford today to assess the response of companies to the employers' advice to start the lock-out. About 45,000 NGA members will be suspended without pay today.

Blair Pequest set a rec

By Nicholas Kinnaird

The inquest into the death of Mr Blair Pequest, a 47-year-old man, was set for today at Hammersmith court, London, with the hearing, the last of four to six weeks, to be held on May 1.

Dr John Smith, a coroner, is expected to call a number of witnesses, including a group of three police officers, three pathologists, and other witnesses who will require further questioning.

Dr Burton may suggest that the jury for the inquest should be selected after the "Peach" family is the official inquest into the death of Blair Pequest, who was a member of the Southall police force.

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TUC discord on poll procedure

By Our Labour Staff

Proposals for reforming elections to the TUC General Council which are opposed by the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) were shelved for the time being at a meeting in London yesterday.

The day-long meeting of the TUC's "inner cabinet", the Finance and General Secretaries' Committee, could not reach agreement on the plan, which could mean general secretaries of small unions losing their seats in favour of wider representation for the larger unions.

Instead the union leaders asked for alternative proposals to be drawn up by TUC staff and put before a later meeting of the committee. The question of women's representation on the general council has also to be resolved.

Opposition to the proposals was led by Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the TGWU, who is often aligned on the general council with general secretaries of smaller unions whose militant policies are more in line with the transport workers than more moderate unions such as the General and Municipal Workers' Union (GMWU).

Mr David Bassett, general secretary of the GMWU, said after yesterday's meeting that any election reform was unlikely to be put before this year's Trades Union Congress. General secretaries are to hold consultations within their unions before a meeting of the committee next month.

The plan would guarantee the TGWU five seats on the

general council and the GMWU would get three. Unions with more than 100,000 members would automatically get a seat and further representation would be based on a rising scale depending on the size of a union's membership.

Merger plans: A merger of two unions in the Merchant Navy has moved closer with the appointment of a working group to draw up a constitution for a single new union.

Talks between the 44,000-member Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association and the Radio and Electronic Officers' Union, which has 4,000 members, have been going on for some time. A joint statement issued today by the unions says the new constitution should be drawn up soon.

In addition, a joint working party is to be set up under Mr John Egan, the chairman of Jaguar, in an attempt to find ways of increasing pay through improved productivity and bonus schemes.

About 3,000 Jaguar employees joined the strike by 18,500 BL workers which started after Easter in protest at the imposition of the company's controversial pay and working conditions package.

When the strike ended 11 days ago after national agreement with union leaders, the 1,600 remained over because of their grievance over regrading. Traditionally assembly track workers have been in the top grade at Jaguar; that is now reserved for skilled employees.

The Queen's message on air crash

Continued from page 1

disaster in 1977 when two Boeing 747 jumbo jets collided on the runway with the loss of 570 lives.

The Queen's sympathy: The Queen has sent a message of sympathy to the Dan-Air chairman, saying: "I have been greatly distressed to learn of the accident to the Dan-Air Boeing 727 at Tenerife."

"My husband joins me in sending you our most sincere sympathy."

"We deeply regret the tragic cost of lives and will be grateful if you would convey our sympathy to the relatives of those who have died."

Shopworkers call for 'jobs without a war'

By Our Labour Staff

Shopworkers were urged at their annual conference yesterday to resist the Government's "pomp-like vanity for military splendour" and press for a switch from increased spending on defence to more funds for social needs.

Mr Stanley Tierney, president of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, told the conference in Bournemouth: "In the 1930s we had a slump with three million unemployed. War rearmament met by public expenditure revived industry. The challenge we face today is to restore full employment without rearmament or a war."

Mr Tierney said the union had made significant progress toward the introduction of a 35-hour week, particularly in retailing, and the target of £50 a week as a minimum basic wage had been achieved in many areas.

Action day call: Teachers who are members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union last night called up the National Union of Teachers to take part in the TUC-organized day of action on May 14 (Our Political Staff reports).

Broadcasting threat: Belonging to the Association of Broadcasters and Allied Staffs' annual conference in Hastings, yesterday passed an emergency resolution authorizing their leaders to discuss with other broadcasting unions what action to take on May 14 (The Press Association reports).

told them that it was their own fault.

He said the Employment Bill was unnecessary and unfair and gave political speech to the Government. He said the union was able to protect themselves.

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Mr Howell seeks Labour cash to support games

By Michael Ratfield
Political Reporter

Mr Denis Howell, shadow sports minister, yesterday asked the Labour Government to provide the funds to assist British athletes still going to the Olympic Games in Moscow.

It was not a clarion call that will be trumpeted by all his colleagues. There was a strong indication last night that the party's National Executive Committee, which approves of the games, would not lead it any endorsement.

Mr Norman Atkinson, the party treasurer, said he did not see how the NEC could back such an appeal, particularly at a time of financial stringency for the party.

Mr Howell said the TUC general council had endorsed the appeal. He told a May Day rally in Birmingham that there must be collections in every field of work over the next two weeks to provide the "desperately needed" money.

"It will be unforfeitable if some western leaders and sports administrators succeed in destroying the Olympic Games without peace in Afghanistan. If that happens their shame will be endless."

"After the events of this week let us hope they have learnt the lesson that unquestioning loyalty to your friends and allies is not the best service we can render to them", he added.

Knuckleduster attack on Lord Chalfont

Lord Chalfont, former Minister of State at the Foreign Office, was attacked in London on his way to record a television programme.

He said yesterday: "My wife and I were driving along the King's Road on Friday evening. I was going to the American Broadcasting Company's studio. The road was blocked. Police were already dealing with a disturbance so we turned off the main road. Our way was blocked by youths, one of whom kicked the car."

"I got out to try to clear a path and was promptly attacked by a skinhead with a knuckleduster. I got a fairly good bashing, a black eye, lacerations and bruises before the youth ran off and I managed to get back into the car."

He was treated by his wife, who is a doctor.

Farmworker tells minister to speed ban on dioxin

By Annabel Ferriman
Health Services Correspondent

A farmworker has urged Mr Peter Walker, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to speed up the ban on dioxin, a toxic chemical found in some farm products.

Mr David Thomas, a farmworker from Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire, whose case was cited in a dossier about the weedkiller drawn up by the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, said in a letter to the minister that he believed that his family and other families had been seriously affected by it.

"My wife Margaret has had two miscarriages and two near miscarriages. Also one of our daughters was born with a blackened urethral tube and enlarged kidney."

"My wife is now expecting our third child in July. I have good reason to suspect the weedkiller 245-T as I have used in my work for at least the past 12 years."

He said he knew of other cases in his neighbourhood. The farmer's wife had several miscarriages and a farmer's sons had been born with "deformed waterworks". Those farmers had also used 245-T.

"A good friend of mine while using a knapsack sprayer had 245-T splash on his neck, a few months later a cancerous

growth appeared on his neck and within a year he died."

Mr Thomas pointed out that the spraying season had started. "Farmers, farm workers and others are in a dilemma as to whether to use 245-T or not. For some reason you seem to be dithering."

The minister denied that there had been any time-wasting on its part. "Last November, the minister invited the union to send him details of their case against 245-T."

"The minister's dossier reached the minister nearly four months later on March 12, and on March 18 Mr Walker presided over a meeting between the union's general secretary and the chairman of the advisory committee on pesticides to set up arrangements for the committee to examine the dossier, including individual case histories."

The minister agreed the first step would be to set up a scientific sub-committee of the advisory committee, but so far the union has not been able to take up dates offered."

The sub-committee had twice investigated the use of 245-T and found it safe, the minister said. The weedkiller 245-T contains dioxin, which was developed by Americans as a defoliant and used in the Vietnam war. Its use has been banned in many parts of the United States, in Scandinavia, and in Japan.

Nuclear submarine dock plan hits safety snag

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A dry dock creates the equivalent of a small nuclear power station.

Under normal circumstances the project would need a safety certificate from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive both before it was built, or before it could be brought into operation.

It is clear from the safety guidelines that the type of temporary cooling circuits devised for the new operations on nuclear submarines would be unacceptable under civil and commercial circumstances.

Moreover, the local authority at Barrow, where the Ministry of Defence intends to make its development, has been advised that the project would contribute to an unusually high concentration of hazards for an urban area.

It would be the third large development for which a risk analysis has been needed. The other two are an extension of

a liquid gas terminal of the type that causes controversy at Caervey Island, and an expansion of dockside facilities for handling nuclear materials for British Nuclear Fuels.

Since the Barrow project is outside the jurisdiction of the Health and Safety Executive, an assessment of the nuclear hazard has been requested by Cumbria County Council from the safety and reliability division of the Atomic Energy Authority.

Nuclear submarines use pressurized water reactors for their power. That principle was the one exploited by the Americans for commercial stations, and is the same as that adopted by the Government for the next series of nuclear power stations in Britain.

However, the original maritime version has characteristics that raise serious questions of safety when brought into dry dock. For that tiny reactor has a large concentration of waste

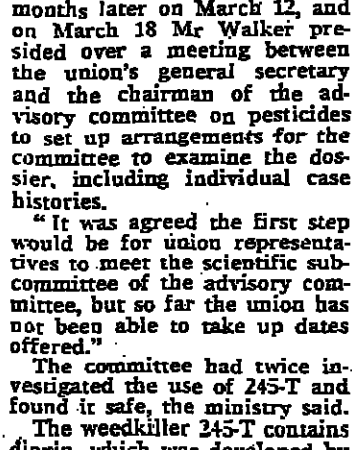
products; it contains, for instance, up to 100,000 curies of radioactive iodine, one of the great biological hazards of radioactive substances.

Although this is only one-tenth of the amount of material created in large power stations, it is in a particularly concentrated form in the submarine reactor. If dispersed because of accident it would create a great public hazard.

Because of the stringent space requirements, the fuel for nuclear submarines is highly enriched uranium 235. Using water as a moderator, it is possible to construct a nuclear reactor of extremely small size which "burns" up the uranium without replacing it with any significant amount of other fissile materials, or like other producing substances which are difficult to obtain from the commercial variety.

Nevertheless, the compact reactor produces a high inventory of other hazardous waste.

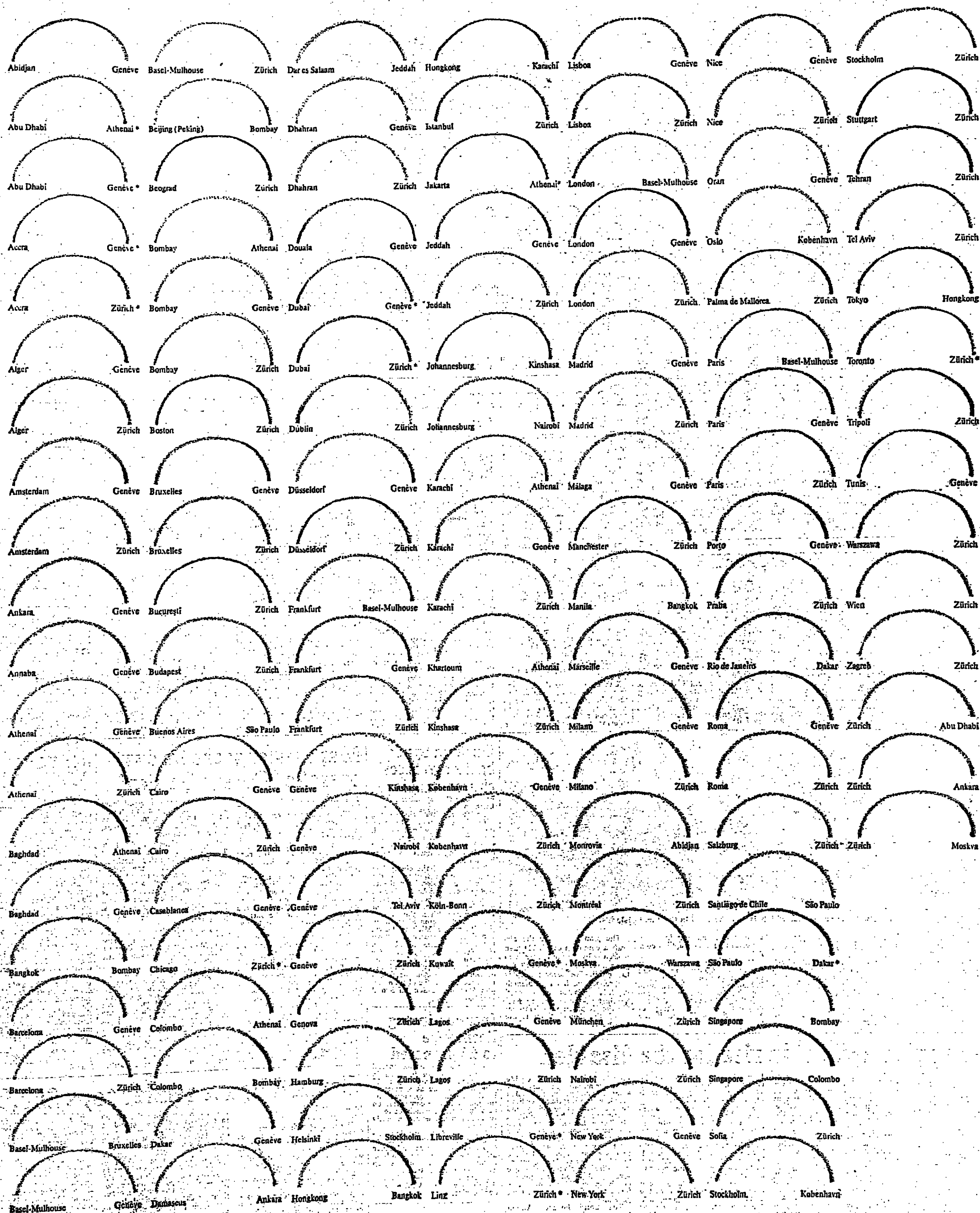
Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts: Warm - Cold - Occluded - High - Low - Wind - Rain - Cloud - Fog - Snow - Hail - Thunder - Ice - Frost - Sun - Moon - Stars - Planets - Comets - Meteors - Auroras - Halos - Rainbows - Mirages - Eclipses - Solar flares - Cosmic rays - Gamma rays - X-rays - Ultraviolet - Infrared - Radio waves - Microwaves - Sound waves - Light waves - Heat waves - Cold waves - Warm waves - Storm waves - Tidal waves - Ocean waves - Wind waves - Ice waves - Snow waves - Hail waves - Thunder waves - Ice waves - Frost waves - Sun waves - Moon waves - Stars waves - Planets waves - Comets waves - Meteors waves - Auroras waves - Halos waves - Rainbows waves - Mirages waves - Eclipses waves - Solar flares waves - Cosmic rays waves - Gamma rays waves - X-rays waves - Ultraviolet waves - Infrared waves - Radio waves waves - Microwaves waves - Sound waves waves - Light waves waves - Heat waves waves - Cold waves waves - Warm waves waves - Storm waves waves - Tidal waves waves - Ocean waves waves - Wind waves waves - 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Demand Oxbridge graduates maintain

By Our Education Correspondent
Fewer than 4 years' graduates employed six graduation, according to a report by the Department of Education.

The report, which is continuing to be published in unemployment, Oxford notes that the unemployed are not being trained for the market.

The report also notes that the percentage of graduates who are employed is falling. It says that the proportion of graduates who are employed is falling from 60 per cent in 1975 to 55 per cent in 1979.

Both universities are buoyant, but the report says that the proportion of graduates who are employed is falling. It says that the proportion of graduates who are employed is falling from 60 per cent in 1975 to 55 per cent in 1979.

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Reforms in NHS 'will cause disruption'

By Our Health Correspondent
The reforms in the National Health Service will cause disruption, according to a report by the Department of Health.

The report, which is continuing to be published in unemployment, Oxford notes that the unemployed are not being trained for the market.

The report also notes that the percentage of graduates who are employed is falling. It says that the proportion of graduates who are employed is falling from 60 per cent in 1975 to 55 per cent in 1979.

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Rural lines missed by users but jobs less slight, study finds

By Our Transport Correspondent
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Move to set up 'wet shelters' for drunks

By Our Health Correspondent
The move to set up 'wet shelters' for drunks is being considered by the Department of Health.

The report, which is continuing to be published in unemployment, Oxford notes that the unemployed are not being trained for the market.

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Floating pub on the Thames is swept by fire

By Ian Bradley
The Old Caledonia, the floating public house and restaurant moored on the Thames near Waterloo Bridge, London, was badly damaged by fire yesterday.

The fire broke out at about 6 am. River police from Waterloo Pier saw smoke coming from the stern of the 230ft vessel and warned the three members of staff sleeping on board.

More than fifty firemen using eight pumps and three rescue tenders fought throughout the morning and early afternoon to bring the blaze under control.

The three people who were taken off the ship were Mr Enrico Canclini, the assistant manager, Mr Neil Barker, a trainee manager, and Miss Fiona Campbell, a barmaid. The ship's dog, Ogo, was also rescued by the river police.

The Caledonia, as she was then known, was commissioned in 1934 and operated until 1969 as a paddle steamer on the Clyde. In 1972 she was bought by Bass Charrington and established as the first floating public house in London.

During the Second World War the Caledonia was fitted with anti-aircraft guns and was stationed in the Thames as part of the London defences against German V-bombers. She shot down two enemy aircraft. She also took part in the Normandy landings.

"She's a beautiful ship," Mr Fleming said as he surveyed the charred hulk last night. "I only hope we can save her."

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Fate of grammar schools at stake in local polls

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent
The fate of grammar schools in eight metropolitan districts hinges on the outcome of the local government elections on Thursday.

Of the 36 metropolitan districts in England, only ten, six Conservative and four Labour, still have grammar schools. Trafford and Wirral are solidly Conservative and there the grammar schools will be safe.

In Kirklees, another Conservative council, the two remaining grammar schools are also far from safe, and the expected Labour victory on Thursday would mean their end.

In Bolton, the Labour opposition has pledged to abolish the six remaining grammar schools when, as seems likely, it is returned to power on May 1. The entire council is up for reelection.

In Birmingham, where Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has approved plans to restore the Sutton Coldfield girls' comprehensive to its former grammar school status, Labour is expected to regain control.

Labour has promised to try to reverse that decision and to turn the city's seven voluntary-aided grammar schools into comprehensives. All are considering going independent and joining the Government's assisted places scheme.

In Calderdale, where the Conservatives have a majority of one, it is less clear how the balance of power will fall between the three parties. But the Conservatives are considering tentative proposals which would chain the status of the seven grammar schools in the Brighouse and Halifax area.

In Walsall, where the Conservatives were in power until a by-election last October, two grammar schools remain. The present Labour council, which is expected to strengthen its position in Thursday's elections, will seek changes for both.

In Wolverhampton, another marginal Labour district, Labour could lose support, having just increased the rates by 60 per cent. One highly selective girls' grammar school remains in the town.

Plans to end selection at the school last September were stopped by a parents' application for a High Court injunction to prevent the council publishing the necessary notices. The case is pending.

But if the Conservatives gain power, they will have to consider the future of the girls' grammar school in the light of the Equal Opportunities Act, which bans sex discrimination in recruitment.

In Liverpool, both the political and the educational position is confused. Labour is nominally in power, but is heavily outnumbered by combined Conservative and Liberal votes.

The seven aided Roman Catholic grammar schools in Liverpool were due to go to the new Labour council, which is expected to strengthen its position in Thursday's elections, will seek changes for both.

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Prison overcrowding worsens

By Our Health Correspondent
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Flying boat recovery plan at risk

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent
An ambitious plan to bring back to life the country for permanent display what is believed to be the last large British-built passenger flying boat in flyable condition is in danger of foundering for lack of money.

The flying boat is a 48-seater Short Sandringham, berthed in the United States Virgin Islands. It was built in 1943 on the Medway by Short Brothers and was converted into a civilian Sandringham, at Belfast, in 1947.

After a varied career with a number of owners, the Sandringham is now owned by Ronald Gillies, a former associate of Captain Blair, who lives in the Virgin Islands. They have paid a deposit of £15,000, but now must find an additional £20,000 in a short time to secure it, or the machine will go to a rival bid put in by an American oceanographic company.

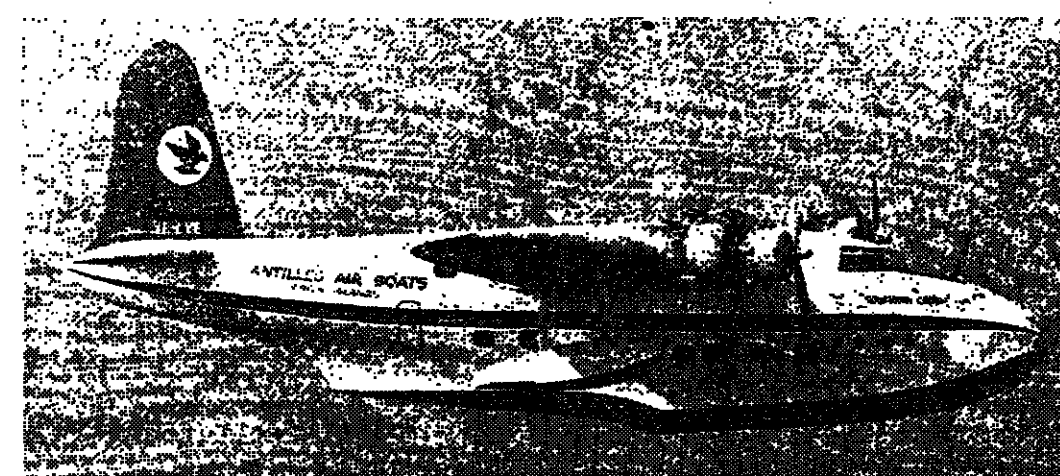
Mr Gillies estimates that it will cost £100,000 to acquire the Sandringham, fly it back to Britain, and restore it. The project has the backing of the Science Museum, but the museum can do nothing to support the project until the boat is back in Britain.

The plan is to give the aircraft a complete overhaul when it arrives in Britain and then to operate it for "joy rides" for the public for several seasons before putting it on permanent display, probably at Calshot, Southampton, the pre-war base for the Empire flying boats, of which the Sandringham is the successor.

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The Short Sandringham, which is now berthed in the Virgin Islands.

A bid for the aircraft has been made by Mr Michael Coughlin, of MM Aviation, Charlton Marshall, Blandford, Dorset, and Captain Ronald Gillies, a former associate of Captain Blair, who lives in the Virgin Islands. They have paid a deposit of £15,000, but now must find an additional £20,000 in a short time to secure it, or the machine will go to a rival bid put in by an American oceanographic company.

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The plan is to give the aircraft a complete overhaul when it arrives in Britain

WEST EUROPE



dy for battle: Mrs Thatcher waiting for the European summit
ting to get under way in Luxembourg yesterday.

Par vote inter federal

Patricia Clough

April 27
Saxland, West Ger-
smallest Land, went to
polls today to elect a
ment which could influ-
Bundesrat elections in
tman.
ough the 826,000 Sax-
represent a highly un-
1.2 per cent of the
ate, almost all the lead-
litions have campaigned
out the mining towns
ine growing villages.
Land is ruled by a
n of Christian Dem-
and Free Democrats,
which, in the Federal
ment and other Länder
a partnership with the
Democrats.
t changes are not fore-
out the Free Demos-
punished for their fail-
s. After fighting the last
is in alliance with the
Democrats they later
sides with arguments
ailed to convince many
ers.
ecological "Green"
weak and without effec-
aders, is unlikely to
much impression in a
ore concerned with its
ymet problems.
Christian Democrats
an campaigning on their
s in improving the
industries and the
standard of living while
cial Democrats have
zed national issues. A
them, they say, is a
Herr Helmut Schmidt,
ancellor, and against
raus Josef Strauss, the
on candidate.

French Socialists fall out over candidate

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 27

Supporters and opponents of
M. Michel Rocard, the chal-
lenger to M. François Mitter-
rand for the Socialist Party's
nomination in next year's presi-
dential election, clashed sharply
at the party's national con-
vention in Paris today.
Differences between them
over the timetable for the
nomination of the candidates
tended to overshadow the de-
bate on international affairs for
which the convention was origi-
nally called.
M. Mitterrand refused to de-
clare whether he would stand
against President Giscard d'Es-
taing, but he condemned the
"unhealthy competition, the in-
trigues, the manoeuvres, and
the campaign of innuendo"
over the choice of a candidate,
and he accused M. Rocard of
having started it immediately
after the 1978 parliamentary
elections.
M. Mitterrand, who wants to
give himself as much time as
possible, to make up his mind,
said he was not a candidate for
the time being. M. Jean-Pierre
Chevenement, leader of Ceres,
the party's left-wing ginger
group, declared, to boos and
shouts from M. Rocard's sup-
porters, that if M. Mitterrand
were not the candidate he him-
self would lead the party into
battle in order to defend its
line. He also accused M. Rocard
of wanting to govern with the
right-wing majority in the
National Assembly.
The Socialists now have no
fewer than four potential can-
didates and are once again
displaying their tendency to
concentrate on internal quar-

rels rather than on the busi-
ness of beating the Govern-
ment.
The majority of the conven-
tion decided — against the
wishes of M. Rocard and his
friends, who wanted the date
brought forward — that the
national congress to choose the
party candidate would be held
early last Sunday about 100
men in dark green fatigues
stormed a dance hall, firing
machine guns. Eye witnesses
said it was a well-planned
assault, some men springing
from the bushes and others
away, others on foot from the
adjoining section known as Tel
Aviv, controlled by supporters
of the ruling People's National
Party (PNP).
The police, not as well
armed, the raiders, were
powerless even though their
station is only 50 yards from
the dance hall. When I visited
Gold Street this weekend there
was still obvious tension. The

OVERSEAS

Machine gun raid on dance hall brings in army to control violence before Jamaican elections

From Michael Leapman
Kingston, Jamaica, April 27

An upsurge of political gang
warfare claimed the lives of
nine people in central King-
ston last week, the worst bout
of violence for years. Politi-
cians and nervous local resi-
dents fear it will intensify as
the late summer elections
approach. The army has been
called in to help the police
establish control.
The most serious incident
occurred a week ago when
four people were killed and
many injured in what has
become known as the Gold
Street massacre. Although the
number of dead scarcely jus-
tifies the word, the style of
their deaths was sinister.
About 400 supporters of the
Jamaica Labour Party (JLP)
were at a fund-raising dance in
a crowded section of central
Kingston called Southside, a
JLP stronghold. As in Belfast,
certain areas of the city are
powerfully identified with one
of the two main parties.
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men in dark green fatigues
stormed a dance hall, firing
machine guns. Eye witnesses
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Party (PNP).
The police, not as well
armed, the raiders, were
powerless even though their
station is only 50 yards from
the dance hall. When I visited
Gold Street this weekend there
was still obvious tension. The

narrow rows of shabby single-
storey houses and shops were
almost empty.
The few people about, lounge-
ing in doorways, explained that
residents stayed up most of the
night, brewing tea and watch-
ing for Tel Aviv invaders. Only
now, shortly after dawn, were
the streets clearing.
One woman said she was
nervous about walking to her
job which involves crossing a
PNP area. Others said they had
been warned by gangsters to
quit their homes. "It is very
serious and I think it's going
to get worse," one said.
Mr. Colin Burke, the JLP
organizer for the area, took me
to the dance hall where the
killings occurred. One wall was
pock-marked with about fifty
bullet holes. Experts say
American machine guns were
used.
Edward Seaga, leader of
the JLP, who accuses Mr.
Michael Manley's PNP of being
dominated by communists,
thinks they are weapons cap-
tured by the North Vietnamese
and reaching the PNP via
Cuba. A more likely expla-
nation is that they are smug-
gled from Florida in exchange
for marijuana, Jamaica's illicit
but lucrative export.
Then we saw the men and
the guns and we started to
run. When we got them we
will eat them raw."
Barriades of drain covers
and building debris have been
built at some cross roads, pre-

venting rubbish collection vehi-
cles from entering the area.
The streets now contain piles
of burning refuse to spare
A crowd had gathered at a
street corner where three
hours earlier a youth of 17
had been shot while on his
way to school.
The Gold Street massacre
was almost certainly revenge
for an incident the previous
weekend when armed JLP sup-
porters threatened Mr. Manley
while he toured the area,
which is part of his consti-
tuency.
JLP leaders believe it is also
part of a campaign to scare
their sympathizers into moving
away from the area before the
election, thus ensuring victory
for Mr. Manley.
Both party leaders have
denounced the violence and
doing so they have placed most
of the blame on their
opponents.
In a two-page advertisement,
in yesterday's *Daily Gleaner*,
adorned with thick black lead-
lines and red spots represent-
ing blood, the JLP asked:
"When they come for you will
anyone be left to defend you if
you do not stand up now?"
Mr. William Bowes, the
Police Commissioner, said last
week that his men were ham-
pered by shortage of equip-
ment. New vehicles and weap-
ons would cost foreign
exchange which the country
cannot afford.
Elections here have often
been conducted amid violence
though in recent years it
seemed to be declining. This
new outbreak may be partly
attributable to the circum-
stances, which persuaded Mr.

Manley to call an election
more than a year before it was
due.
Jamaica, in tremendous debt
and with a chronic shortage of
foreign exchange, has just
withdrawn from negotiations
for a new loan from the Inter-
national Monetary Fund. The
Government believes that the
terms sought by the IMF were
too steep and would have
caused greater hardship than
the country is now enduring.
Because of the foreign
exchange shortage, food is
scarce and there have been dis-
turbances at shops suspected
by customers of holding back
supplies. The inability to buy
imported raw materials has led
to local factories closing and
burgeoning unemployment.
Opinion polls have shown
that if the election were held
now the JLP would win easily,
perhaps securing more than 40
of the 60 seats in Parliament.
It is being delayed at least
until July because of the need
for a new register to avoid the
traditional charges of fraud.
Mr. Seaga accuses PNP sup-
porters of provoking violence
to provide an excuse for a de-
claration of state of emer-
gency and the cancellation of
the election. He calls it the
"Reichstag plan" or military
solution and has asked for
international observers.
There is no evidence of any
such plan, Mr. Manley and his
colleagues probably have no
more control over the PNP
thugs than Mr. Seaga does over
his own violent supporters—
leaving the uncomfortable pros-
pect of a long election cam-
paign with no sign of the
violence abating.

40 killed after Thai plane explodes

Bangkok, April 27.—Forty
people were killed and 11
injured today when a Thai air-
liner exploded in heavy rain
and lightning while approaching
Bangkok airport on a domestic
flight, airline officials said.
The dead included 36
passengers and four crew.
Most of the 11 survivors were
reported to be in a critical
condition.
The Thai Airways aircraft
crashed into a rice field about
12 miles north of the airport
while on its final landing
approach.
The airline said 38 bodies
were found at the scene of the
crash and two people died later
in hospital. Among the injured
were four foreigners but their
names were not known.
The aircraft was on a regular
flight from north-east Thailand.
It crashed about five minutes
before its scheduled landing.
Officials were investigating the
cause of the crash.
It was the worst air disaster
in Thailand since an Egyptian
Boeing 707 crashed in Decem-
ber, 1976, killing 72 people.—
Reuter.

Rebel ministers dismissed by Chad Cabinet

Njameena, April 27.—A
special meeting of Chad's tran-
sitional Government on Friday
decided to dismiss "for reasons
of rebellion" Mr. Hissene
Habre, the Defence Minister.
Mr. Habre's Armed Forces of the
North (FAN) have been fight-
ing the Government's Armed Forces
(FAP) of President Goukouni
Oueddei for more than five
weeks.
The Cabinet meeting,
attended by Vice-President
Colonel Wadal Abdelkader
Kamougue and other Ministers
from southern Chad, decided
for the same reason to dismiss
Mr. Mahamat Saleh, the Finance
Minister, and Mr. Hajarou
Senooussi, the Reconstruction
Minister.
A decree signed by the Presi-
dent said that the three
ministerial portfolios were
"reattached" to the presidency
of the transitional Government,
which resulted from a reconcil-
iation agreement signed in
Lagos last August.
The removal of Mr. Habre and
those ministers who have
supported him openly in the
power struggle is aimed at
reaffirming the President's
legitimacy but could make it
more difficult to reach a
negotiated solution.—Agence
France-Press.

Mali security men fire on school pupils

Dakar, April 27.—Security
forces wounded at least 10
pupils when they opened fire
on them in a secondary school
in the Mali capital of Bamako,
according to reports by visitors
from Mali.
They said the incident, two
weeks ago, was the latest in
Mali's school and teacher
boycott of classes from Novem-
ber to March and the arrest
of pupils and some teachers
during demonstrations.
The shooting occurred after
pupils at Badalabougou College
stormed the premises to try to
catch one of their leaders whom
they accused of filching money
contributed for the victims of
the protest demonstrations in
March.
A police squad called by the
college authorities to restore
order was stoned by the pupils
Agence France-Press.

Tea workers in Sri Lanka no longer stateless

From Our Correspondent
Colombo, April 27

The stigma of statelessness
which has afflicted about half a
million people of Indian origin,
working mainly in tea planta-
tions in Sri Lanka, is to be re-
moved.
Under the Indian-Sri Lanka
pact of 1964 and 1974, India
agreed to take back 600,000
people of Indian origin, while
Sri Lanka agreed to grant citi-
zenship to the balance, number-
ing 400,000. But the granting of
Sri Lankan citizenship was
numerically linked to the num-
ber repatriated. Now Sri Lan-
kan citizenship will be granted
irrespective of how many have
left for India.
With the Indian Government
granting Indian citizenship to
those who wish to return, the
category of "stateless" will be
eliminated.

Cuban exodus to Florida grows despite bad weather

Key West, Florida, April 27.—
The number of refugees fleeing
to the United States from
Cuba grew steadily today, de-
spite heavy seas threatening
small boats in the Florida
Strait.

"We have had more than
1,100 refugees in the past 24
hours. That's more than double
the number for any other day,"
an Immigration Service official
said. He estimated the total
number of refugees now in
Florida at 3,000.
Coast Guard officials ex-
pressed concern about the safety
of the many of the boats making
the 50-mile crossing, saying
waves in the strait had in-
creased to 7ft, winds had risen
to about 25 miles an hour and
there were reports of thunder-
storms.

Coast Guards have responded
to more than 100 distress calls,
most from inexperienced sailors
who hastily bought boats when
the going price for ferrying
refugees, climbed dramatically.
The average price for taking
refugees is now about \$1,000
(\$435).
The rush to leave Cuba began
early this month when disas-
tured Cubans flocked to the
temporarily unguarded Per-
uvian embassy after their eva-
cuation ran into diplomatic ob-
stacles. The big Cuban com-
munity in Miami started rais-
ing money for refugee vessels.
Mr. Frank Viles, port director
at Key West, said there were an
estimated 1,500 boats anchored
at Mariel harbour, near Havana,
waiting to land refugees. "It
will take about four days before
they can return," he said.—
Reuter.

nish party moves reduce sibility of early election

Christopher Follett
Copenhagen, April 27
prospect of an early
election receded at the
1 when Mr. Anker Jørgen-
sen, the Danish Prime
minister, started talks with
centrist parties—the
Democrats, Radicals,
Christian Democrats—in a
nominal package.
Social Democratic govern-
ment, barely
months in office, failed
to gain support for
age from the Liberals
servatives. The break-
negotiations gave rise
of another, probably
election being held
nth.
ackage is designed to
the Danish balance of
s deficit, at present
at 15,500m kroner

(£1,200m), and proposes tax in-
creases of 4,000m kroner and
public expenditure cuts of
5,000m kroner.
The package also includes a
scheme to transfer 5,000m
kroner from pension funds and
insurance companies into risk
investment capital for Den-
mark's depressed export indus-
tries.
A controversial plan to sub-
ject state pensions to a means
test has been dropped and re-
placed by a proposal to increase
VAT from the present 20.25
per cent to 22 per cent.
If, as is now expected, Mr.
Jørgensen can successfully
muster the support of the
three centrist parties, his
economic plans, due before the
Folketing (Parliament) during
the first week of May, would
be guaranteed a slim majority.

Police hold 60 after riots in Frankfurt

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, April 27

Sixty people were detained
by police and many others were
injured in a series of riots in
Frankfurt this weekend.
The violence broke out when
police used water cannon to
break through barricades set up
round a house occupied by
about 40 people protesting at
the city housing problems. They
were met with a barrage of
stones which injured several
policemen and damaged many
vehicles.
More clashes followed as
groups of angry demonstrators
fanned out through the city
centre. A gang of about 30
people with sticks and iron bars
beat up and seriously injured
a right-winger, threatening
passersby who tried to inter-
vene.

of Belgian net in sight

Is, April 27.—A solu-
Belgium's political
spared in sight with
ment reached by Mr.
Marx, the care-
time Minister, in talks
to leaders.
heads of the French-
and Flemish wings of
alist, Social Christian
al parties agreed to shelve
en's proposal to shelve
2 the thorny issue of
of Brussels in the
devolution plans.
ng after a meeting
ned early yesterday
ns said the agreement
covered constitutional
and measures for
restraint, would be
with the six parties
leaders.
arens must success-
ude his negotiations
xation of a six-party
Government by May
id a general election.
vious administrations
April 9 over the issue
tutional reform since
g the language conflict
the country's 5,500,000
and four million
peakers.
ts to set up distinct
ative areas in Dutch-
Flanders, French-
Wallonia and Brussels
induced on the status
pial, which is mainly
eaking but has a
s Flemish minority.

Swiss put out their flags for the Queen's visit

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, April 27

With the office of President
of the Confederation rotating
yearly among the seven
members of the cabinet, the
Swiss have little opportunity
for formal state occasions and
are, therefore, making the
most of the Queen's four-day
visit which begins on Tuesday.
Always a flag-loving
people—many houses and cha-
lets have their own pole—they
are putting out even more
with Union Jacks in all sizes
selling briskly. Newspapers
carry articles on the Queen
and protocol.
According to the latest
opinion polls, the Swiss are
rather better disposed towards
the British than towards other
foreigners. Some are disap-
pointed, therefore, at the brev-
ity of the royal visit.
Lucerne, for instance, is to
see the Queen and the Duke of
Edinburgh, accompanied by

Lord Carrington, the Foreign
Secretary, and Lady Carrin-
ton, for only 15 minutes.
In Geneva, the Wednesday
evening the royal party, after
visiting the castle of Chillon at
the other end of the lake and
a reception by the British com-
munity in Lausanne, will spend
45 minutes at the headquarters
of the International Committee
of the Red Cross.
On the lawn outside they
will be mingling with the
people, particularly British
children, for a few minutes.
This is in conformity with
British wishes for opportunities
for informal contact.
These have been provided as
far as is compatible with securi-
ty, which is being ensured
throughout the tour by men of
the Federal Anti-Terrorist Unit.
On Friday evening the royal
party is due in Vaduz, the
capital of Liechtenstein for a
private visit. They fly back to
Britain on Sunday.

Land given to peasants

From Our Correspondent
Lisbon, April 27

Dr. Francisco Sá Carneiro,
the Portuguese Prime Minister,
this weekend travelled to
Alejojo province from Lisbon
to preside over the first pre-
sentation of land to farm
workers in Portugal's richest
farming area.
Ninety-four peasants became
small landowners with the

landowners. Other distributions
of land will follow.
The land handed over this
weekend are on an estate that
had been nationalized in Decem-
ber, 1975. The nationalized
property was not successfully
managed, according to Dr.
Cardoso de Cunha, the Minister
of Agriculture and Fisheries,
who accompanied the Prime
Minister.

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Profile

Peter Shaffer

The two sides of theatre's agonised perfectionist



America. I felt myself to be unemployable in England.

...I felt myself to be unemployable in England. I had something to do with literature, something indeed to do with theatre, but I think I was a Puritan of an extreme kind. By that I mean that somehow along the line I had absorbed the belief that if I really wanted to do something, the theatre for example—I was passionately devoted to the theatre—that was something that was not to be done in a halfhearted way. I should do something respectable and 'serious' like one of the professions and the theatre in my spare time. As a result I think I denied myself the pleasure of writing plays for a very long time. Foolish, very foolish.

First of all I sold books in Doubleday's shop. I worked in the airlines terminal. I worked in Grand Central Station, in a department store, Lord & Taylors, and then I moved to the New York public library in the acquisitions department. That meant that I ordered books for the library, slightly boring job, in fact a very boring job, because you simply copy titles out of catalogues. I soon discovered after a year or so that the librarian's life was not for me. It's much too orderly and dreary.

I wrote my first play under the blotto at the same time called *The Salt Land*, about Israel. I lived at that time in what was then called, and still may be for all I know, Hell's Kitchen, which is quite a grim part of the city on West 37th Street, between 9th and 10th.

I wouldn't want to repeat the experience, but I think it was particularly dangerous in those days. It was just rather desperate and rather ugly and dirty. When I returned to England I worked as a literary critic for *Truth* and earned a living at Boosey & Hawkes, the music publishers. I got a job for £10 a week in the symphonic department. I was happy there because I've always loved music. I was working with material I understood and the feeling of being relatively useless and unemployable began to vanish a bit.

I was working for two very impressive men at that time. One was Erwin Stein, who is the father of Marion Thorne, a lovely old gentleman, and the other was Dr Ernest Roth. At one time I think he had been private secretary to Richard Strauss. He was a marvellous man and he took me aside one day after I had been doing. I hope, satisfactory work and said: "You know, the sad thing is that music publishing as such is very much on the decline. The real money in the firm comes from the brass band side."

One of the partners offered me a job in the brass band factory at Edgware. I had a long think and thought no. I didn't see my future in terms of a factory making brass band instruments in Edgware or indeed anywhere else. So I resigned and said, "I'll live now on my literary wits."

I sat down and wrote a play, *Five Finger Exercise*, and sent it to a girl I knew who worked for E. M. Tansant. It came up on the desk of John Perry, a director of Tennants. This took about six months. I had virtually forgotten all about it, then one day I got a phone call from John Perry asking to see me. In those days they had offices in the Globe Theatre, in that circular bit in Shaftesbury Avenue.

He said, "would John Gielgud suit you as a director?" "I was tremendously in awe of Gielgud. One of my earliest recollections of the theatre was seeing him acting Richard III at the Golden Lane Hippodrome, and he filled me with a tremendous desire to write for the theatre. I asked John Perry if this meant he was going to do it and he said of course, or I wouldn't be there. We opened at the Gielgud Theatre in 1958 and it was, I'm glad to say, a huge overnight success, one of those things one sometimes reads about. I was started and it seemed there was no going back, that I was a playwright."

Sometimes it seems as if there are two playwrights in Peter Shaffer, one engaged in the agonised probing of the human soul in *Royal Hunt of the Sun*, *Equus* and *Amadeus*, the other producing the hilarious flights of farce like *Private Eye* and *Public Eye* and *Black Comedy*. "These are two sides of me, and one is a relief from the other. It began with *Royal Hunt of the Sun*. It was a theatre of ritual and music and cries and ritual and incorporating music. So did *Equus* and so did *Amadeus*, contrasted with a tremendous pleasure I have always had in farce, which again is a form of gestural theatre. "Black Comedy" is almost all gesture. You could almost put plate glass between the audience and the stage and still someone would emerge from the act and play. I love high comedy and I love farce and I would love to do more of it. In fact I intend to do more. It is very important to write comedy. It is very hard and it seems to me that it requires almost more discipline than the questing plays. "It was the Chinese who thought of the idea behind *Private Eye* and *Public Eye* and *Black Comedy*. They did an excerpt from a play called *Where Three Roads Meet*. The sequence they offered was a scene in a lodging house at night where a warrior lays himself down to sleep—it is wordless, this particular scene—and a bandit creeps through a window. "It is supposed to be pitch darkness,

except it is all done in brilliant light, light so forcible that it almost suggests darkness. The warrior gropes for his sword and challenges the intruder. They fight with swords so sharp they seemed if I recall, to cut little bits off the fringes of their clothing. Real swords. "The effect on the audience was extraordinary, because it was wildly funny and wildly dangerous as well, so that they were caught between two emotions of alarm and delight. "Two things struck me. First of all, if high comedy is akin to drama, farce is akin to melodrama. All those great farces of Feydeau are concerned with extremely dramatic situations. Open that door and your marriage is at an end, there's no two ways about it. If you open that drawer, you are ruined. And the other thing that struck me was that I would very much like to use that convention of reverse light and darkness for an English comedy. I talked it over with John Dexter, who had been my director on *Royal Hunt of the Sun* and was again on *Equus*, and he was very encouraging and said: "It's a marvellous idea, you must do it."

I was depressed because I couldn't get it going. The problem was that, although funny, it seemed to me to be the kind of idea that would be good for a revue sketch, but it couldn't possibly stretch, couldn't last. First of all, there was no way that comedy could obtain realistically for more than a few minutes. Someone would just sit there in the dark. Someone would produce candles. If they didn't have candles there would be some other thing, a torch. If it failed they would simply abandon the evening.

"While I was brooding on this and thinking I wish I'd never agreed to do it, someone from the National Theatre rang up and said: 'We've announced your new play and we've already got a terrific response at the box office. You must be very pleased.' I looked down at my desk at what had been advertised and what the public was apparently responding to so nicely and it was just two pieces of paper, one covered with tomato soup and the other which had just torn up. "I suddenly thought of course, the only way this can work is if there is somebody in that room, preferably the host, who has a reason for keeping those people there and in the dark. "I thought what could it be—obviously he's got to be someone. That if he had stolen some furniture from next door, from a neighbour who was away and who unexpectedly returns? Obviously before he can put the light on or get some help he's got to frustrate everybody else's attempts to light the room until he's got whatever it is. "Suddenly I had the real farce idea, which is not just one or two objects, all the furniture in the room and it all has to be moved out without anybody knowing. I remember the idea and just laughing. I think the gods were kind about that one."

The two major historical plays, *Royal Hunt of the Sun* and *Amadeus*, require an immense amount of reading to get the whole context together. The central core of both, and indeed of *Equus*, is a agonised insight into the workings of the human soul, his recognition of divine inspiration in character. What brings him to this? "If I could really answer that I suppose I wouldn't be writing plays any more. I would have worked that out. There is in me a continuous tension between what I suppose I could loosely call the Apollonian and the Dionysian sides of interpreting life between, say, Dyrast and Alan Strang. "It immediately begins to sound high falutin', when one talks about it oneself. I don't really see it in those 'dry intellectual terms. I just feel in myself that there is a constant debate going on between the violence of instinct on the one hand and the desire in my mind for order and restraint. Between the secular side of me the fact that I have never actually been able to buy anything of official religion—and the inescapable fact that to me a life without a sense of the divine is perfectly meaningless."

"I love that word playwright, particularly right—suggests a wheelwright or a cartwright, a man with a hammer, hammering out a solid structure, and I've always tried to do that. I like to bury all my labour and effort so that it appears to be effortless. "I would like my next play to be a comedy. If this isn't too rationalistic, one that unifies and counteracts the impression of there being two kinds of plays that I write. "People who quite like one's work but want to put it down to a bit of wit, it's very theatrical, of course. I always find that very odd. It's almost as if you are making a pejorative remark about a painter by saying of course it's painterly. "My quarrel with a lot of London is that it's not theatrical enough. It does not use the medium of theatre nearly enough. I am tired of seeing a one-set play with two people whining at each other all night or delivering a sequence of lectures to the audience. It doesn't seem to me to be what the theatre is for."

Brian Connell

SPORT

Golf

Ballesteros excels under another kind of pressure

From Peter Ryde
Madrid, April 27
Severiano Ballesteros won the Madrid Open by three strokes from his nearest competitor, Manuel Piñero, today. His final round of 69 gave him a total of 270, 18 under the previous record for the Puerta de Hierro course. It was a flawless follow-up to his victory in the United States Masters. More often than not, that victory causes players to disappear from the scene, as so much happens in the wake of victory. It says much for the poise of the hero-victor that Ballesteros could cross the Atlantic and win again, not under the same pressure, but under a different pressure, with much greater involvement with the crowd.

He collected £11,000 from the week-end work, more than half of it in appearance money, but although I am opposed to the idea of it, one would be hard-pressed today. The change in enthusiasm for the tournament compared with the past is due entirely to one man.

The nearest Briton finished 13 strokes behind the winner, in the person of Philip Ellison, who scored a fine 65. The South African, Piñero, finished ahead of him in third place, one, Watson, level with him, and one, Watson, just behind him. The Spanish players, the South Africans behind the leaders here no doubt owed some of their success to the fact that they needed careful reading.

Jacklin, on 285, had a chance to catch Ellison, but hit the ball twice in a row, put it in the hole on the last stroke. Piñero, on 286, had a chance to catch Ellison, but hit the ball twice in a row, put it in the hole on the last stroke. Piñero, on 286, had a chance to catch Ellison, but hit the ball twice in a row, put it in the hole on the last stroke.

At the third, the gap narrowed to three strokes. Ballesteros, for once, could not extricate himself well enough to make par. Thereafter, he appeared more cautious off the tee, taking a one-iron at the fourth, seventh and ninth. At the fifth, where the other two struggled in vain to reach the green, Ballesteros was 18ft behind the stick with a four-wood. But Piñero continued to hang onto the flying cart tails, holding bravely from more than 20ft to match the other's birdie. They exchanged birdies at the seventh and eighth, and with nine holes to play, Ballesteros was four ahead again. But Piñero made his

birdie at the 13th, closing the gap to three at the third time, and then, at the 15th, came his hammer blow eagle with a three-wood second to 12ft.

Now the pressure was fully on the British Open and United States Masters champion, but he came back in character, fashion at the 16th hole. With a tree between him and the pin, he had to bend the shot some 40 yards in the air with a steep iron. The ball stopped 12ft away and he holed for a birdie. Piñero took three putts to be one over par for the hole and had shot his bolt, but what a truly admirable effort he had made.

Ballesteros: soaking up the pressure on way to victory.

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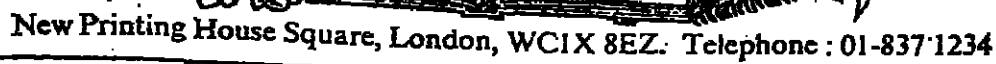
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er the past few months the
stern alliance has been offered
big opportunities. One was to
prove its own internal cohesion
the face of new challenges.
e other was to improve

They have some remaining credit in Tehran with certain political groups and they should make use of it on behalf of the alliance as a whole. There is still strong resistance to Soviet penetration in the Muslim world as a whole and in Iran in particular. Sanctions would be almost bound to weaken it. European influence, carefully used, can still do something to strengthen it both by direct diplomacy and by restraining Mr. Carter.

domestic issues seem to go or ever, but one topic has it uncannily faded from the cal scene. The parties have had always been speculative, and that it was up to local councils to choose their building policies for themselves.

the rate of building in the public and private sectors is now at a level which has appeared suicidal to verment in the days when need obligatory to promise 0, or even 500,000 new a year. Last week Sir Trench, chairman of the al House Building Council, said that there be no than 165,000 new starts this a rate lower than anything in peacetime since the The housing policy review 77 predicted that demand run at a rate close to 0 through the 1980s. Yet serious challenge to the situation in a parliamentary itree last week, replied plomb that the predictions

Compromise the air at Luxembourg

he time of writing there may
be guessing what this after-
communique' part of the Euro-
summit will say about Mrs
ter's demand for a broad
e between what the United
n pays into the Community
ar and what it gets in return.
has been strongly fought,
mes for too rigidly fought in
of figures and deadlines than
wise. But, in the end, much
propaganda and diplomatic
has been underused by a
an international crisis: that
hatcher, over temperment
g must recognize as more
ately important than a book-
; dispute about a sum eve-
s as more than one billion
sterling.

summit agenda must now be
shy considerations of
unity not by the deep
s and bitter differences that
the Dublin summit at the
November. Accordingly, Mrs
r will need no advice from
e and not a hint of encour-
e she must change her style
e, and perhaps her summit
e. The logic of every public
e she has made on a dan-
d and deteriorating situa-
ion is that she knows
st things must be seen to
est.

cussion of big issues, or for any
high strategic
achieve. The
The Luxembourg summit
will be all over in 24 hours. And
almost as much time will be taken
up by the social programme as by
the formal sessions. In effect, there-
fore, little can be achieved, if Mrs
not allowed to relax during the
preparatory, diplomatic work. The
summit meeting, by its nature, is
either the seat affixed to an agree-
ment, or it sets the mine, a new
strategic objective.

First in session nearly a year
ago, then in Dublin, Mrs
Thatcher showed her impatience
with summity and some of her con-
tential critics would say, that she
showed, her lack of confidence
understanding of the process implied,
that she had pressed conference, that
she had used a woman's privilege to
use her colleagues in an attempt to
get an overnight decision, and for
their part, Chancellor
Schmidt was too bored and
oddly for an insomniac-sleepy, and
President Giscard d'Estaing was
cold and indifferent.

In domestic politics, the Labour
opposition may well think that Mrs
Thatcher has no chance of produc-
ing a parliamentary or popular suc-
cess out of Luxembourg. It would be
completely out of character for her
in present circumstances to throw
the Community into disarray by

the float
Mr Robert Sheldon, MP for
Under-Lyne (Labour)

21. are wholly right to say
22. that an excessive reliance
23. on exchange rate as a weapon
24. during inflation cannot be
25. justified. Since the beginning of last
26. year the exchange rate has risen
27. 28. per cent while our inflation
29. has risen more than that of our
30. competitors. What have we
31. by such a policy? A rapid
32. manufactured imports much
33. over our exports of such goods.
34. I cannot survive the strong

pound, which brings about cheap
imports and dear exports.
To raise the level of the exchange
rate and largely in the hands of
the market, to lower it is under our
control. The Bank of England needs
to be instructed by the Government
to sell sterling and so depress the
price. The reduction in the exchange
rate is the essential action necessary
to rescue British industry and
it is one which Government has
within its power to take.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT SHELDON,
House of Commons,
April 24.

They have some remaining credit in Tehran with certain political groups and they should make use of it on behalf of the alliance as a whole. There is still strong resistance to Soviet penetration in the Muslim world as a whole and in Iran in particular. S. would be almost bound to weaken it. European influence, carefully used, can still do something to strengthen it both by direct diplomacy and by restraining Mr Carter.

The demand that the Government publicise its expenditure is an indication that the public is aware of the importance of controlling public expenditure and is more fully accepted now than it has been in earlier periods of officially-proclaimed austerity. It cannot be expected to "last." And since the broad level of spending by the Government is effectively prescribed by the Government (whose public expenditure White Paper portends tighter controls still in the immediate future), the public "are not likely to give undue weight to Mr. Heseltine's claim that it is not really a local matter. No doubt with a view to deflecting possible criticism, ministers have

will be all over in 24 hours. And almost as much time will be taken up by the social programme as by the political programme. It is to be hoped that the little can be effected that has not already been agreed during the preparatory, diplomatic work. The summit meeting, by its nature, is intended the seat affixed to an agreement, or at the most, a new initiative.

First in Strasbourg nearly a year ago, and, then in Dublin, Mrs Thatcher showed her impatience with summery and some of her confidential critics would say, her unwelcome understanding. She herself implied, her final press conference, that she had used a woman's privilege to nag her colleagues in an attempt to get an overnight decision, and for their part, the British cabinet was openly bored and—schmied—by an insomniac—sleepy, and President Giscard d'Estaing was cold and indifferent.

In domestic politics, the Labour opposition may think that Mrs Thatcher has no chance of producing a new parliamentary or popular success out of Luxembourg. It would be completely out of character for her in present circumstances to throw the Community into disarray by

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT SHELDON,
House of Commons.
April 24.

Next month the Islamic foreign ministers are meeting in Islamabad. They are expecting to discuss a proposal for a neutral Afghanistan and some of them are hoping for support from the United States and the Soviet Union. The run-up to the meeting offers the western alliance a chance to support a constructive initiative by countries directly threatened by the Soviet presence in Afghanistan. Let this chance not go the way of others.

These are minor changes. But it is quite clear that at this moment the control of public spending must take precedence. The standard of housing in Britain compared to similar countries is in fact far from poor. Demand for housing is (perhaps) quite flexible. Imperative as the short-term economic need is, however, pressure is bound to build up in the longer term. The immediate question is how best to deploy such funds as can be spared. Of the new initiatives, it is the grants to improve older housing that are most relevant. Almost a third of our national stock was built before 1914, and much of it, if neglected, could pass beyond repair. The Government's encouragement for owner-occupiers does not weaken that need, as there is disturbing evidence that owner-occupation is no guarantee of high maintenance standards. As long as we cannot build on a large scale, we must ensure that what we have does not deteriorate.

That is a domestic political role that would be attractive to broad sections of the British people, and on the strength of it Mrs Thatcher would almost certainly be able to win the support of the Conservative Community Development Committee. Demands for a settlement are imperative, and it would be correct to insist on a full settlement, delivered on the lines of the 1975 report. The Government, by this afternoon, would lose the support of the majority of the community, and the Government would be humiliated. It would be a humiliating impotence, and it would correct some of the miscalculations made five months ago in Dublin.

In advance of the communiqué, we must agree some compromise in the form of a settlement, and compromise is in the air.

Farmers and consumers
 From Mr John Chaloner
 Can Mrs Chemery (April 24)
 tell farmers how to use higher land
 values, short of borrowing ourselves
 into insolvency? Most other pro-
 duction asset values have trebled in
 seven years, and most home-owning
 consumers' properties.
 Yours faithfully,
JOHN CHALONER,
 Crookland Farm,
 Cross-in-Hand,
 Heathfield,
 Sussex.
 April 24.

From Mrs. Elizabeth Young
Sir, Last Monday Mr Vsevolod
Orychinnikov, political correspond-
ent of Pravda, gave a talk in
London on "The Soviet View of

We have long known about the operation of the memory-hole in the Soviet Union, but now they seem to be exporting it.
Yours, etc,
ELIZABETH YOUNG,
100 Baywater Road, W2.
April 23.

From Mr Trevor Leggett
Sir, In his letter of April 22, the Rev Barry Morrison makes the point—against Rajneesh's reported

Incidentally the worship through music is also in line with the Indian tradition of the Gita, which twice has the line spoken by Krishna: "Have your mind on me, be devoted to me, worship me, bow down to me". The second commandment, to love thy neighbor, is also closely matched by another phrase which comes twice in the Gita, "delighting in the welfare of all beings".

Yours sincerely,
TREVOR LEGGETT,
32 Palace Gardens Terrace,
Kenilworth, W8.
April 22.

From Mrs M. Chincotta
Sir, Although the news of the future suspension by Spain of the Gibraltar frontier restrictions has been generally welcomed if only on humanita-

Yours faithfully,
M. CHINCOTTA.
14 Alameda House,
Red Sands Road,
Gibraltar.

From Mr John McK. Service
Sir, Mr Lister's letter (April 21) reminded me of a brand of Japanese whisky I came across last year in Rio de Janeiro. Labelled "Georgia"

Deaths in police custody

From Mr Michael Meacher, MP for
Oldham West (Labour)
Sir, Professor Usher (April 23)
misrepresents my position over the

Was it justified to withhold from the public the most important pieces of evidence, such as the four policemen's original statements to the police investigating Officer, or to withhold 30 pages of Herby's account of his own reconstruction of events?

It was it right that the policemen should have access to their original statements, whilst the other witnesses were denied access to theirs?

Is it appropriate or desirable to allow an inquest more than nine months after the death? Memories do fade, even of those who were direct eye-witnesses and who are crying consciousness of the danger of failing to achieve adequate precision in recall was effectively used by counsel to suggest general unreliability.

From Mr N. Ripley
Sir, The appearance of your article
(April 23) about Professor Forer's
attempts to persuade the United
States to adopt a different policy
towards Iran was a welcome sign
diverted to other targets, and a
climate might be created in which
a solution would be found.
Yours faithfully,
N. RIPLEY,
6 Blenheim Road, NW8.

It is only when we are prepared to listen sympathetically and without condescension to these grievances that we will come near understanding the Imperialism of the Iranians, and to the inhabitants of a large number of other countries, does not mean a form of visible political and economic domination, but the insidious encroachment of a foreign influence, corruption, and destruction of established social orders and economic organisations through the intermediary of repressive governments. We tend to think of our relations with these countries as being essentially pragmatic, based on economic and defence considerations. But if our policies are implemented by unpopular governments we must expect to be unpopular.

Even after the unsuccessful United States military operation, which will presumably have the effect of strengthening mutual hostility, I continue to believe that the only sensible way to deal with the crisis is to insist that the release of the hostages is for the United States to do both or, either of making a public apology to Iran and of insinuating some form of international inquiry into what did go on in Iran during the last years of the Shah's reign. I doubt whether the Iranians would be prepared to

Public opinion could play an important role in this, if attention were directed to the fact that the confrontation that the seizure of the embassy has caused and more on the part of the people, who do not feel they hold justifiably against us, and which they wish to publicise. If the media chose to investigate the reasons for our sending of the ship, they might be diminished, or even

out, in the interests of historical truth, that the British Government, a revolutionary government which declared war on Austria and Prussia in 1792 and not the other way round.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. RYDE.
Reader in History,
St. Antony's University College,
Lampeter, Dyfed.

From the Director General of the Falkland Islands Office

Sir, On Monday (April 28) in New York, a new round of talks on the Falkland Islands will start between Sir Robert Bond, British representative, and Mr. Angelant, Argentine representative. This week, the Soviet Union signed a fisheries research and exploitation agreement with Argentina, following those already in being with West Germany, France and

numerous studies have confirmed
 his findings. In 1977 the United
 Nations Food and Agricultural
 Organization published a three-part
 study on krill and very recently
 the Whale Fish Authority has con-
 ducted a study of fish resources

Such explanations have an eerie similarity with the equally unconvincing explanations officially given for the death of the other James McGee who died in Glasgow police station from a ruptured liver caused not by a kick as alleged, but by falling on a heavy rubber bucket broken by a rubber ball shot from a gun into the side of his head; and that of the other James McGee who died of a severed gastric artery caused not by a beating, as alleged, but by being knelt on by a policeman, as alleged. Does anyone really believe that these are the most likely explanations of what actually happened in each case?

I am perfectly ready to admit that I regret being misled about whether Kelly sustained a fracture of the toe or whether it was just a bruise, but that the first pathologist missed the double fracture of the jaw and concluded that the police had strangled him.

Lastly, my call for a public inquiry into deaths in police custody never hinged on the outcome of the Kelly case. It rests, as it has always rested, on the need to investigate in depth selected categories of cases out of the 273 deaths in custody in England and Wales in the last 10 years, in particular the 16 cases where the coroner returned an open verdict and the 20 cases where complaints were made to the Director of Public Prosecutions following a death in custody that police assault caused death.

If this were systematically done, I do believe that public disquiet over this issue could be finally relieved.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL MEACHER,
House of Commons
April 24

From Sir Richard Acland
Sir, As my father wrote the report which led to the Forestry Commission, I should like to contribute to the forestry debate belatedly because of recent return from

With this in mind, "significant economy" is a psychologically dangerous phrase because we have experienced it in the past. The last time we found ourselves in that position, before we went back to normal, we'll within the probable possibilities bracket that in 50-60 years today babies will be entering the labor force when Britain will be able to buy not less, but far less in the way of food and clothing than we can import today. Contemporary conditions make possible future; it may be, but I agreed that man is the only member not seriously dependent on imported feedstock; and that about an acre deer graze where no other animal could find food. But neither mountain sheep nor deer farming can ever make anything like a 25 per cent contribution to our meat consumption; and under long-term, severe economy our successors could well endure a 50-60 per cent cut in meat. If all the agricultural world were to be put on a diet of apples and bacon, we'd switch to bean soup, we'd provide a duller, but protein adequate diet.

Recreation in open spaces? It must be conceded that trees will noticeably reduce it. But consider even the Langdale Valley—the worst possible spot from my point of view and certainly excluded from the Commissioners' plans. Would climbers on cliffs under the Pike suffer serious aesthetic loss if they reached their starting points through wooded paths?

Suppose even that the Band were forced up to 120 feet below the neck that links Crinkle Crag to Bow Fell. Would it be very terrible for over-stressed city dwellers if they walked the Band path through woods? Near the paths could be wide varieties of trees, even if, further in, the planting was confined to conifers. The frequent gaps could be cut giving wide vistas onto the opposite peaks, and visitors could then come out on unclimbed and sheeprazed mountain tops, and see all the other mountains whose lower slopes were not so steep.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD ACLAND,
Sprydon,
Broadclyst,
Exeter;
Devon.

From Mr. Peter Brook
Sir, I have just returned from Australia and have read Sheridan Morley's generous account in *The*

'I would hate to find myself in the company of those who over the years have gone to Australia to compare it unfavourably with Europe! In many ways the truth today is quite the other way round. Yours faithfully,
PETER BROOK.
International Centre of Theatre Research,
9 Rue du Cirque,
Paris VIIIe.

Sir, Your story on the News of the World editorship (April 25) gives the impression, perhaps inadvertently, that I had discussed Mr Shickle's case.

The remarks attributed to me were
 made in a totally different context
 at a different time in an interview
 for a different publication.

Yours faithfully,
 LARRY LAMB,
 Deputy Chairman,
 News Group Newspapers Ltd,
 30 Boulevard Street, E.C4.

From Mr Bruce Parker
Sir, Why are school holidays so long? When I was a boy at school, I couldn't answer the question. When I was a schoolmaster, I found

When I was a schoolmaster, I found
the question at embarrassing one.
Now, as the parent of three
children, I find myself asking it.
Yours faithfully,
BRUCE PARKER
Lanham Cottage,
Lanham Lane,
Winchester.
April 22.

Taking care
of the
company
computer, p18

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Can the IMF
step up its
help to the
needy? page 19

| Stock markets | |
|--------------------------|--|
| FT Index 427.5 down 7.3 | |
| FT Gilts 65.61 down 0.37 | |
| Sterling | |
| \$2.760-\$2.790 | |
| Index 73.8, up 0.3 | |
| Dollar | |
| Index 87.4, unchanged | |
| Gold | |
| \$550.50, up 0.28 | |
| Money | |
| 3 mth sterling 17.1/17.2 | |
| 3 mth Euro \$ 16.3/16.4 | |
| 6 mth Euro \$ 15.1/15.2 | |
| FRIDAY'S CLOSE | |

US interest rates set for a substantial drop, bankers say

From Frank Vogl
Washington, April 27

Reductions in United States interest rates, expected this week, are likely to mark the start of a substantial drop in prime rates, according to American bank economists. Commercial and consumer loan demand is now falling significantly, according to data from the Federal Reserve Board. At the same time, the Fed is seen as easing its tightly restrictive credit stance somewhat. Some easing is possible for the Fed without changing its money supply target ranges for this year because of sharp cuts in the money stock in recent weeks.

A large number of corporations are now showing great interest in making loans in the commercial paper market for as long as 270 days, which is the maximum period for this market, and this indicates to traders that many company treasurers believe interest rates are heading downwards. The degree to which the money stock has fallen has surprised analysts and perhaps the Fed bought over \$2,000m of government securities and so added fresh cash to the markets. The money supply, as defined on a M1B basis consisting of currency plus demand deposits, fell by \$1,900m in the week to April 16 after declining by \$1,100m in the previous week. The Fed's target for M1B growth for the fourth quarter of last year to the fourth quarter of 1980 is 4 to 6.5 per cent. Over the last 13 weeks the annual rate of growth of this measure of the money stock has been just 1.4 per cent.

Last year saw record level credit demands, with the household sector raising \$150,400m in the markets, and with the corporate sector raising more than \$150,000m. In the first few months of this year, the picture continued to be bleak but changes are emerging quite clearly for April.

Chancellor's strategy under MPs' scrutiny

By David Blake
Economics Editor

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will face tough questioning from MPs at a meeting of the House of Commons Select Committee on the Treasury and the Civil Service today on the Government's plans for the economy over the next four years. In particular, they seem likely to want to examine the prospects for Government plans aimed at transforming the nationalised industries from heavy net borrowers into profit centres, the close supervision of the corporate sector. This will be Sir Geoffrey's second appearance before the committee. When he gave evidence a fortnight ago he was questioned closely about the Government's pay bill, this financial year being 25 per cent higher than it was during the 1979-80 financial year.

The Chancellor felt that the tone of the questioning at that session, and subsequent press reports were a setback to Government efforts for lower pay demands. The MPs were particularly worried about how the pay bill could increase so much when the Government had imposed cash limits which were generally thought to imply a 14 per cent pay rise ceiling.

Although the Chancellor explained that the two figures are constant, and subsequently wrote to Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the committee, to clarify the matter further, the way the figures became known has undoubtedly damaged the Government's campaign to lower wage settlements.

Matters were not helped by the Chancellor stating that the private sector was also giving large pay settlements of about 18 per cent in the year up to March. Some Government officials feel that this overstates the rate of pay increases during the present round. Members of the committee have expressed considerable scepticism about many of the figures contained in the Government's medium term financial plan.

Albright & Wilson jobs 'at risk' if Iran trade embargo is imposed

By Our Industrial Staff

White collar trade union leaders fear that Albright & Wilson, Britain's second largest chemicals company, may be prevented from selling to Iran if the United States imposes an embargo on trade with the country.

This would be seriously damaging to job security at A & W. Mr Roger Lyons, national officer of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs said.

He fears that the embargo would be extended to A & W, which he says does "substantial" business in Iran, by its American parent, Tenneco. Earlier this year, Mr Lyons called on Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, to investigate Tenneco's trading policies for A & W after it became known that the British subsidiary was made to comply with United States licensing regulations for exports to Cuba.

Mr Lyons said then that this contravened the terms of an understanding drawn up between Tenneco and the Department of Industry at the time of the A & W takeover in 1978.



Mr David Livingstone: damage has been negligible.

The Department of Industry has now replied that there has been no breach by Tenneco of the understanding given. However, Lord Trenchard, Minister of State, has agreed to keep the matter under review. In a letter to ASIMS, he

adds: "The Government is greatly concerned about attempts by foreign governments, including the United States, to influence the activities in the United Kingdom of subsidiaries of companies under their jurisdiction."

A Bill, designed to safeguard companies from this sort of interference, is expected to receive Royal Assent soon. Yesterday, Mr Lyons said the Government's reply revealed the complete inadequacy of safeguards established at the time of the takeover.

It also exposes how powerful multinationals can pick and choose which laws and regulations to abide by, and how powerless employees are to safeguard their own interests in such circumstances. Mr David Livingstone, managing director of A & W, has said his company will continue to operate as an autonomous subsidiary. In a letter to Lyons last month, he explained that damage to the company's export business caused by restrictions imposed via Tenneco's American connection has been negligible.

Empain chief holds on to group control

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 27

Baron Edouard-Jean Empain, one of the most powerful industrialists in Europe, president of the Empain-Schneider group, has decided to retain control of the group. After he was kidnapped for 63 days in early 1978, Baron Empain handed over the running of the group, which comprises 150 companies specialising in heavy and nuclear engineering with a total turnover of 22,000m francs (\$2,315m), to M René Engen, one of his closest associates while he recovered from his ordeal. However, in October of last year he was re-elected president, and M Engen became general director.



Baron Edouard-Jean Empain: recovered zest for life.

Early this year, there were again rumours that Baron Empain wished to abandon the presidency of the group which employs 330,000 people, but in an interview with the news magazine *Le Point*, he stated that he had recovered his zest for life, and was resuming active control.

His reasons for taking over again were that the group was in a way "his baby" that he had a duty towards its shareholders and that he had some personal scores to settle. "Those who think they can follow their own line are wrong," he said, "I give them six months to return to the ranks or to leave."

He was convinced that the government preferred to deal with him over the restructuring of the French steel industry in which the group has an important stake through Creusot-Loire, which he set up in 1970, and has, under his leadership, branched out into nuclear technology.

After being released by his kidnappers, he received several anonymous threatening letters and telephone calls urging him to make him relinquish control of the Empain-Schneider group.

EEC bonds proposed to recycle Opec funds

Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, suggested that the European Community should offer securities denominated in European currency units to oil-producing nations.

He told a meeting of EEC heads of government in Luxembourg that this would help recycle the surplus dollars of members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, test Norman writes. He also suggested that the European Monetary System could be amended to force countries with below average inflation performances to take corrective measures. It was unclear how the other heads of government reacted to Mr Martens' ideas.

In the discussion on the European Monetary System, Mr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, told Mrs Thatcher that Germany would like to see Britain become full member.

beer statistics

Britain is the world's third biggest brewing nation, ranking behind the United States and West Germany, according to figures in the *League for World Beer Drinkers*, according to the test International Survey of Revving and Beer Drinking. East Germans, Austrians, Czechs, East Germans, Danes, New Zealanders and Belgians drink more than Britons.

hira energy mission

Mr Masayoshi Ohira, the Japanese Prime Minister, will visit Mexico to triple its crude oil supplies to Japan, and will seek Canada to ensure a long-term steady supply of fuel oil at reasonable prices when he visits Mexico and Canada early next month, according to government sources quoted by *Yodo News Service*.

Vosper inquiry call

Vosper, now a subsidiary of David Brown Holdings, has called for a public inquiry into its dispute with the Government over compensation for its shipbuilding and repairing interests, nationalized in 1977. So far, the company has been offered £4.5m for net tangible assets valued at £25m.

Car sales drop

The downturn in car sales in Britain predicted by Sir Ierence Beckett, chairman of Ford last week, may have already started. April sales are likely to show a drop of one third compared with April last year, according to figures circulated privately within the motor industry.

Premium oil for Japan

In the midst of the Iranian crisis, two Japanese firms, Idemitsu and Dai-ichi, have secured an additional 105,000 barrels a day of Kuwaiti crude oil, *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly* reports. The two companies will have to pay a premium of roughly \$5.50 a barrel over the official selling price of \$27.50.

Cons Gold denial

Consolidated Gold Fields, Mr Harry Oppenheimer's empire, Anglo American and De Beers, say they have not been buying more shares in Cons Gold beyond the 25 per cent accumulated in February's market coup. In any event, they will not go beyond 29.9 per cent.

ASDA turnover up

ASDA stores, the Associated Dairies Group subsidiary, which is Britain's largest operator of supermarkets, has achieved a 1 per cent improvement in its share of the retail market in three months of squeezing profit margins on 300 high volume lines in its 73 stores.

Backing for Engineering Authority

By Our Industrial Staff

The Engineering Employers Federation (EEF) which represents over 65,000 member companies employing 1.75 million people, has given its support to a motion in the House of Commons to establish an Engineering Authority, but stresses that at least 50 per cent of its membership should be chosen by the federation.

The recommendations are contained in the federations' response to the Finiston Report on Engineering and represent the latest of many submitted to the Department of Industry, on its request, since the report was published in January.

Many of the Finiston proposals have led to controversy, not least of which has been the composition and the size of the proposed authority. The Council of Engineering Institutions, which would lose a great deal of its power and influence to the new proposed authority, has strongly criticized such a body, which could easily be subjected to "shifting winds of political convenience".

In the EEF submission, it does oppose, however, the creation of any new body without using the existing framework.

Many of the professional institutions in their submissions have also reserved their judgement about a body such as the proposed Engineering Authority, which would depend on government for its finances. That is an area highlighted in the EEF response. It says that an initial investment by government may be necessary to establish the body, but thereafter it must be financially independent.

It also recommends that the authority should be accountable to the Privy Council rather than the Department of Industry, and would as a consequence be less dependent on government. Although the engineering industry, the EEF admits in its submission, is failing to attract adequate number of young people, largely through the industry's poor image, the federation believes that the United Kingdom's economic decline cannot be blamed entirely on the performance of professional engineers.

Clothing employers' associations to unite

By John Huxley

Five employers' associations from different sectors of the clothing manufacturing industry will form a single organization to represent companies at national government and international level. The move to strengthen the voice of the industry comes during increasingly severe pressure on manufacturers from imports. The British Clothing Industry Association will have a combined membership from several hundred companies employing about 150,000 people.

It has been formed by the British Apparel Manufacturers' Association, the Clothing Manufacturers' Federation, the Clothing Manufacturers' Association, the Overall Manufacturers' Association and the Shirt, Collar and Tie Manufacturers' Federation.

At the same time they are to establish a joint committee for the 1980 wage negotiations with the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers. In the past, each body has drawn up a separate agreement. Mr Gerald French, director-general of the new association (BCIA), said that the move reflected the industry's concern to streamline its industrial structure which has been criticized for being too weak and fragmented.

BCIA will take over all international and government representations from another industry organization, the British Clothing Industry Council for Europe. It will also cover the industrial relations work handled by the bodies individually and by their domestic policy making body, the industry joint council.

BCIA will be established formally on July 1, 1980, but will not be fully operational until January 1982. An 18-month transition has been agreed to allow for gradual assimilation of the various associations.

Mr Norman Sussman, chairman of the joint council, said at the weekend that the formation of BCIA was a significant step forward. "By promoting and protecting manufacturers' interests on a united basis we can meet the challenges of the eighties with renewed vigour and confidence."

It is estimated that the clothing industry has shed some 10,000 workers in the past six months. Several thousands more are on short-time working. This has been blamed largely on increased penetration by cheap imports from the Far East. Manufacturers have called for stricter application of present controls, introduced under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, and the negotiation of a more restrictive trading regime, when the existing rules expire at the end of 1981.

Mr Fraser believes it is good strategy to study companies that are largely being ignored and to buy when trading volume in the shares of such companies is low. He is also quite willing to apply his rule to the markets as a whole. He points out that the great majority of people believe that share prices will at least double this decade. "I think share prices will at least double this decade," he predicts. Now he notes that shares are unpopular, while people overwhelmingly believe that real estate is the best inflation hedge. "I think share prices will at least double this decade," he predicts.

With so many people so nervous and despondent, Mr Fraser's optimism is well-earned and refreshing. "Usually you have to be different to the rest to make money in the stock market," he declares. If you are a fundamentalist like Mr McAlinden in this period of intense nervousness, then you ought to be most pessimistic about the market. Coming months will show if Mr Fraser's contrary opinion laws truly work.

He expects the recession might last four full quarters and he says that in the past the stock market goes down as the economy contracts and the decline in share prices continues to about half way through the recession. In this case the half way point will be the middle of the third calendar quarter of this year, he says. Many people on Wall Street take an equally gloomy view, citing traditional trends and the logic of a situation where companies face a profits squeeze.

But Mr Fraser scorns those who follow the pack, who in his opinion become blinded by historical trends and the weight of the current conventional wisdom. Mr Fraser has been making money in the markets, at least an annual compound rate of 15 to 16 per cent over many years, by holding contrary opinions.

He fears that too many people will follow his example and that too many people will pay attention to his views. In such a case, he says, his opinions will become the conventional wisdom and those making money will be those who do the very opposite of what he and the great majority of investors do. "When your picture is on the cover of *Institutional Investor* magazine you are finished, just as when *Time* magazine says wonderful things about a company you know that is the moment to sell the company's shares," he says.

Mr Fraser does not believe there are any mechanical rules to be observed in following the contrary opinion course. He does not believe that it is a good idea

Industry department may merge with trade

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Speculation that the Government may merge the Department of Trade with the Department of Industry has increased since the recent departure of several senior civil servants and the amalgamation of some top posts.

The most recent move has been that of Mr Ron Dearing, who goes to head the Post Office's postal operation next month from a deputy secretaryship in the Department of Industry. A month earlier Mr John Lippitt, another DOI deputy secretary, announced his resignation to go to GEC.

Only one of the two vacancies is to be filled. Mr Roy Croft, Sir (now Sir) Peter Thornton, Appointed permanent secretary to the new Department of Prices and Consumer Protection headed by Mrs Shirley Williams.

On the civil service front, Sir Anthony Part, now chairman of the Orion Insurance Company, became permanent secretary to the new Department of Industry with Mr (now Sir) Peter Carey as his number two. Sir Peter Carey succeeded Sir Anthony in 1976.

At the Department of Trade, Mr John Cairnes, who has been on secondment to the National Enterprise Board, has become deputy secretary. However, he will combine the posts of chief executive of the British Overseas Export Board with responsibility for export policy, commercial relations with individual countries and the Department's interest in overseas aid.

This reduces the number of Department of Trade's secretaries from six to five. Mr Dearing's departure from the DOI leaves Industry with six under secretaries, but at least two are due for retirement within six months.

The amalgamations of under secretaries posts are part of a general drive to cut down staff employed in the Civil Service. At the Department of Industry, the intention is to reduce the numbers from about 5,425 last December to about 4,650. Trade is to be reduced from 7,325 to 7,100.

A merger would recreate the joint department for Trade and Industry which existed during the 1970-74 Conservative administration. This was split up by the Labour Government in March 1974 into three separate components.

Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn became Secretary of State for Industry, Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the separate Department of Trade and the newly created Department for Prices and Consumer Protection headed by Mrs Shirley Williams.

On the civil service front, Sir Anthony Part, now chairman of the Orion Insurance Company, became permanent secretary to the new Department of Industry with Mr (now Sir) Peter Carey as his number two. Sir Peter Carey succeeded Sir Anthony in 1976.

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Argentine banks taken over to halt panic

From Our Correspondent
Buenos Aires, April 27

The Argentine Ministry of Economy has taken over the management of three conglomerates which own the three largest banks in the country. The Government is attempting to stop the financial panic which followed the closing of the Banco de Intercomercio Regional, the country's largest private bank, last month.

According to a ministry statement the motive for the intervention was the irregular relationships between the banks and the groups which owned them. The banks, which had most of their funds deposited in

the three banks were being used to finance their owners' undertakings, in contravention of Argentine banking laws.

The best known of these groups is Saseur, the largest Argentine grain exporter in 1979. However, heavy investment in mills and oilseed crushing plants has resulted in a £220m debt which the group's cash flow cannot service.

The deposits in the banks concerned had amounted to eight per cent of the national money supply, but with the collapse of the Banco de Intercomercio Regional a run developed on all banks and financial houses which had mushroomed over the past two

years by the simple expedient of offering high interest rates on short term deposits.

In one month the Banco de los Andes owned by the Cocol group, lost 55 per cent of its deposits and the Banco Odeon, owned by Señor Luis Odeon, lost 50 per cent.

To fill the gap left by these withdrawals Argentina's Central Bank started issuing temporary advances, but by last week these advances had reached £1,000m and were causing serious economic disturbances.

Where the withdrawals were converted into hard currency the Central Bank was compelled to use more than \$132m of its reserves to support the exchange programme which is the cornerstone of Argentina's anti-inflation policy.

Moreover, the Central Bank has paid an interest rate of 1 per cent a month on the interbank offered rate, to takers of these advances, so the phrase of one banker that were "a lifebelt made of lead" and merely insured the demise of banks desperate enough to need them.

The ministry's statement said that the Greco group would continue to operate under its government trustee, while the other two would have their assets sold off on an orderly way until the debts of each group were met.

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THE POUND

| | Bank | Rate | Bank | Rate |
|-----------------|---------|---------|----------------|--------|
| Australia \$ | 2.11 | 2.04 | Norway Kr | 11.82 |
| Austria Sch | 30.75 | 29.00 | Portugal Esc | 11.82 |
| Belgium Fr | 70.10 | 68.50 | South Africa R | 12.80 |
| Canada \$ | 2.71 | 2.64 | Spain P | 164.50 |
| Denmark Kr | 12.29 | 12.74 | Sweden Kr | 10.09 |
| Finland Mk | 1.55 | 8.45 | Switzerland Fr | 4.02 |
| France Fr | 9.86 | 9.48 | USA \$ | 2.76 |
| Germany DM | 4.29 | 4.07 | Yugoslavia Dir | 51.25 |
| Greece Dr | 95.50 | 90.50 | | |
| Hongkong \$ | 11.27 | 10.52 | | |
| India Ru | 1.14 | 1.10 | | |
| Italy Lit | 2005.00 | 1910.00 | | |
| Japan Yen | 580.00 | 555.00 | | |
| Netherlands Gld | 4.71 | 4.48 | | |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied yesterday by Bank of International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

PROVIDENT LIFE ASSOCIATION OF LONDON LIMITED

Salient points from the accounts and the statement by the Chairman, Mr R. J. W. GRABBE, F.A.A., on the Group results for 1979. The recommended final dividend of 5.5p per Ordinary share makes, together with the interim of 4.5p already paid a total of 10.0p per share, an increase of 41.8 per cent in the case of former "A" Ordinary shares the effective increase is 16.6 per cent after allowing for the one for ten capitalisation issue of 28th December, 1978.

| | 1979 | 1978 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Transferred from Revenue Accounts | 4000 | 4000 |
| Life Assurance Fund (after taxation) | 291 | 233 |
| Non-Dividendable Profit | 210 | 200 |
| Property and Accident | 5 | (269) |
| Motor | (95) | 7 |
| Mining | 6 | (7) |
| Investment Income | 418 | 164 |
| Miscellaneous Profits | 22 | 30 |
| Expenses | (33) | (33) |
| Taxation | (119) | (72) |
| Profit after taxation | 266 | 582 |

The profit after taxation of the parent company was £539,000 (1978 - £510,000) and of the subsidiaries transacting general business was £327,000 (1978 - £72,000).

| | 1979 | 1978 |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Long-term insurance funds | £29.5M | £28.5M |
| Investment Reserve | £ 4.7M | £ 5.8M |
| Gross rate of interest earned | 5.50% | 7.98% |
| Premium Income (1979) | £14.4M | £12.9M |

GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS Premium income in year

Frank Vogl
in Washington

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Uncertain future in tanker trade

An air of uncertainty hangs over the future of the tanker market after the events in the Middle East last week. Fears over the prospect of a naval blockade led to an early rush by some charterers to clear their cargoes from the area and this in turn resulted in vice rates jumping by some six points.

Initial panic was replaced as the week progressed by a more subdued atmosphere. After Japan and the EEC nations had announced their backing for President Carter's trade sanctions very little chartering activity was undertaken.

For Japan, support means that it faces a substantial shortfall in its oil supplies and many in the market had expected Japanese charterers to enter immediately to book cargoes. However they maintained a low profile and like others seem prepared to wait events before acting.

The one good thing for owners in all this is that after a long period of rates being at the very poor level of around Worldscale 30 they are now moving upwards and may even reach the break-even point of Worldscale 40 in the next week

or so. There was pressure in the market however to try and restrict any improvement to around Worldscale 35 but the general feeling among brokers is that rates will continue to rise in the short-term but as to overall market prospects, it is anybody's guess.

Large tonnage accounted for about half the vessels booked in the Gulf last week. Of the vlccs fixed, between Worldscales 32 and Worldscales 38.25 was paid for voyages to the United Kingdom/continent.

Freight

Arco, Total and Socal were among those fixing such tonnage while Texaco arranged a ulc to the UK/continent on the basis of Worldscale 24 for slow steaming and Worldscale 26 for full steam. Another ulc was booked to Greece at Worldscale 32. The remaining fixing done in the Gulf involved a variety of tonnage between 50,000 and 120,000 tonnes and included such destinations as India, Taiwan and East Africa.

For the other loading areas both the Caribbean and Mediterranean experienced a good turnover of fixing and Indonesia and West Africa were also more active.

The problems of the Middle East appeared to have little influence upon dry cargo trading. It tended to be a mixed week in the market with voyage business and time-chartering sharing the leading positions on different days, although the latter was the stronger overall.

Grain fixing started the week firm and some further gains were recorded. From the US Gulf to Taiwan \$43 was secured for a 20,000 tonne vessel, representing a rise of about \$1 while from the West Coast, \$35.50 was paid on a 30,000 tonne shipment. To Japan between \$27 and \$32 was obtained for cargoes of 32,000 and 45,000 tonnes respectively.

The Chinese were back in the market for both voyage and time-charter tonnage and among the former was a 30,000 tonne grain shipment from the US Gulf at \$43.

David Robinson

Issues react badly to Iran confrontation

The Eurobond market reacted badly to news that US military forces had failed in an attempt to rescue the American Embassy hostages in Tehran, writes AP-Dow Jones.

The disclosure came at a time when Eurobond salesmen were still working on placing much of the \$1.2bn of fixed-rate international dollar bonds and notes that had been scheduled for offering in the past two weeks.

The news led to widespread dumping of unplaced issues. As a result, many of the recent offerings fell by between four and six points from the issue price in aftermarket trading, causing some severe losses among the underwriting firms.

Moreover, bond specialists conceded that several current offerings, which have been underwritten on fixed terms ahead of the selling period, no longer provide a market-related return.

Consequently, these sources say, it will be very difficult to place the current offerings unless most of the commissions and perhaps more are passed on to investors as discounts from issue price.

While it could be argued that the market's negative reaction to a worsening of the United States conflict with Iran was too

Euromarkets

emotional, some bankers pointed out that the conflict could lead to a disruption of world oil supplies and higher energy prices.

Euromarkets

emotional, some bankers pointed out that the conflict could lead to a disruption of world oil supplies and higher energy prices.

In 1974 and again earlier this year, world bond markets collapsed mainly as a consequence of the inflationary effects of greatly increased energy costs. Bankers said that the threat by Iran's foreign minister, Mr Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, to stop oil

One bond trader also contended that heightened tensions in the Gulf will bring about increased United States military spending. This could add to United States inflation and increase federal debt demands on the United States bond market, he asserted.

| | Offer Price | Conv. Prep. |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1994 | | |
| Mineola 10 100% | \$2.5 | 12.75 |
| Quebec Hydro 10 100% | \$5.0 | 12.00 |
| FLOATING RATE NOTES | | |
| 14-11 10 100% | 100% | 19.65 |
| Banco di Roma 15% | | |

[illegible]

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|----------|
| Boys 6, 1988 | 100 | C. C. C. |
| Boys 8, 1988 | 50 | C. C. C. |
| Eastern Nevada 1, 1988 | 70 | C. C. C. |
| East 2, 1988 | 50 | C. C. C. |
| Galveston-Houston 8, 1988 | 100 | C. C. C. |
| Gulf and Western 5, 1988 | 100 | C. C. C. |
| Imperial 6, 1988 | 100 | C. C. C. |
| INA 6, 1988 | 100 | C. C. C. |
| Leak Petroleum 3, 1988 | 100 | C. C. C. |
| J. P. Morgan 4, 1988 | 100 | C. C. C. |
| Owens Corning Fiberglas 1, 1988 | 100 | C. C. C. |

Wall Street

From Anthony Hilton,
New York April 27

Just four weeks ago American share prices were down within a whisker of their five-year low when Wall Street's Dow Jones index on March 27 dropped below 730. But so fast has sentiment changed that last week the New York Stock Exchange had the largest rise in one week in its history.

The Dow Jones Industrial Index, the blue chip barometer soared 40.18 points to break through the 800 mark once again and settle at 803.58. Most of the gain occurred on

most of the gain occurred on Tuesday. It was the second best day ever according to the composite share index which charts the movement of all share prices. Even on the Dow it was the fifth best rise on record.

record, and the best since November 1, 1978, when the Federal Reserve Board announced one of its first plans to raise interest rates and shore up the dollar.

Even the military adventures in Iran could only briefly dampen the enthusiasm. Prices fell 6 points when the exchange opened on Friday but recovered quickly thereafter and actually advanced 7 points by the end of the day.

The upswing which comes after two months of falling prices and a 14 point drop in the Dow is a result of falling short-term interest rates. Many of the banks cut prime lending rates—the charge to their best industrial borrowers. A further help was a 19 per. cent rise

week, yields on Treasury bills and notes have tumbled dramatically and it is widely believed that medium and long-term rates will soon follow the shorts own.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

[illegible]

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week FT Index change on week 427.5—15.2(3.4%)

[illegible]

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Today. Dealings End, May 9. Contango Day, May 12. Settlement Day, May 19

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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Stepping Stones—Non-Secretarial—Secretarial—Temporary & Part Time Vacancies

LA CREME DE LA CREME

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Recruitment Consultants

ORGANISED ? to £6,000
Deal with materials and fashions with this £1 import/export firm. Totally organic books of samples from suppliers and keep track of clients' wants. Your flexibility and patience will ensure you an exciting new career. Call Melaine Woid at 01-828 8855.

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The MD of this smart European menswear company is looking for you to assist in production and supply. You'll be involved in sales administration, bi-annual exhibitions and a minimal amount of sec. back up. For career advancement call Vanessa Jefferys on 01-828 8855.

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Join the team as they set up their new London offices (California based) and help out with everything. You'll be involved in sales administration, bi-annual exhibitions and a minimal amount of sec. back up. For career advancement call Vanessa Jefferys on 01-828 8855.

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Totally assist the MD of this successful company marketing word processors. Cope with the sales office environment and maintain a full PA role, dealing with senior level clients and standing in for your boss. Mature and initiative will be rewarded with a company car to follow. For excellent sales prospects call Susan White on 01-828 8855.

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to be Personal Assistant to the Director of the London secretariat serving the 28 year old company. You'll be involved in the organisation's meetings. The duties include correspondence, travel arrangements, some personnel matters, dealing with visitors, preparing agenda and papers and taking minutes. There is scope for executive initiative. Candidates must have full secretarial skills including good shorthand, typing and audio ability.

Salary in the range of £5,139 to £5,628 (including London Weighting); Lunchon Vouchers, generous leave.

Applications to the Secretary, New Towns Association, Glen House, Stag Place, Victoria, London SW1E 5AJ. Tel: 528 1185.

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Are you looking for a job which will give you the chance to use your organisational ability work on your own initiative and to be part of a team? The Tennis Association is looking for a Secretary for the Tennis Association. The duties include correspondence, travel arrangements, some personnel matters, dealing with visitors, preparing agenda and papers and taking minutes. There is scope for executive initiative. Candidates must have full secretarial skills including good shorthand, typing and audio ability.

Salary in the range of £5,139 to £5,628 (including London Weighting); Lunchon Vouchers, generous leave.

Applications to the Secretary, New Towns Association, Glen House, Stag Place, Victoria, London SW1E 5AJ. Tel: 528 1185.

PART-TIME VACANCIES

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT needed for a leading magazine. The duties include correspondence, travel arrangements, some personnel matters, dealing with visitors, preparing agenda and papers and taking minutes. There is scope for executive initiative. Candidates must have full secretarial skills including good shorthand, typing and audio ability.

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A real P.A. opportunity with this international organisation promoting trade fairs worldwide. 30% of duties include correspondence, travel arrangements, some personnel matters, dealing with visitors, preparing agenda and papers and taking minutes. There is scope for executive initiative. Candidates must have full secretarial skills including good shorthand, typing and audio ability.

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CATERING

Leading catering concern seeks a P.A. to its London office. The duties include correspondence, travel arrangements, some personnel matters, dealing with visitors, preparing agenda and papers and taking minutes. There is scope for executive initiative. Candidates must have full secretarial skills including good shorthand, typing and audio ability.

Salary in the range of £5,139 to £5,628 (including London Weighting); Lunchon Vouchers, generous leave.

Applications to the Secretary, New Towns Association, Glen House, Stag Place, Victoria, London SW1E 5AJ. Tel: 528 1185.

PA/ADMIN

A small City company requires a P.A. to its Managing Director. The duties include correspondence, travel arrangements, some personnel matters, dealing with visitors, preparing agenda and papers and taking minutes. There is scope for executive initiative. Candidates must have full secretarial skills including good shorthand, typing and audio ability.

Salary in the range of £5,139 to £5,628 (including London Weighting); Lunchon Vouchers, generous leave.

Applications to the Secretary, New Towns Association, Glen House, Stag Place, Victoria, London SW1E 5AJ. Tel: 528 1185.

SENIOR SECRETARIES

Two senior secretaries required for a leading international organisation. The duties include correspondence, travel arrangements, some personnel matters, dealing with visitors, preparing agenda and papers and taking minutes. There is scope for executive initiative. Candidates must have full secretarial skills including good shorthand, typing and audio ability.

Salary in the range of £5,139 to £5,628 (including London Weighting); Lunchon Vouchers, generous leave.

Applications to the Secretary, New Towns Association, Glen House, Stag Place, Victoria, London SW1E 5AJ. Tel: 528 1185.

WINE

Old established City Wine Merchants are seeking a P.A. to its Managing Director. The duties include correspondence, travel arrangements, some personnel matters, dealing with visitors, preparing agenda and papers and taking minutes. There is scope for executive initiative. Candidates must have full secretarial skills including good shorthand, typing and audio ability.

Salary in the range of £5,139 to £5,628 (including London Weighting); Lunchon Vouchers, generous leave.

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Buy responsible job for experienced P.A. to a leading international organisation. The duties include correspondence, travel arrangements, some personnel matters, dealing with visitors, preparing agenda and papers and taking minutes. There is scope for executive initiative. Candidates must have full secretarial skills including good shorthand, typing and audio ability.

Salary in the range of £5,139 to £5,628 (including London Weighting); Lunchon Vouchers, generous leave.

Applications to the Secretary, New Towns Association, Glen House, Stag Place, Victoria, London SW1E 5AJ. Tel: 528 1185.

PERSONNEL P.A.

International Fashion Co. seeks career-orientated P.A. to its Managing Director. The duties include correspondence, travel arrangements, some personnel matters, dealing with visitors, preparing agenda and papers and taking minutes. There is scope for executive initiative. Candidates must have full secretarial skills including good shorthand, typing and audio ability.

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RECENT STREET

PA/Secretary required to assist busy Chartered Surveyor. The duties include correspondence, travel arrangements, some personnel matters, dealing with visitors, preparing agenda and papers and taking minutes. There is scope for executive initiative. Candidates must have full secretarial skills including good shorthand, typing and audio ability.

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PART-TIME VACANCIES

PART-TIME SECRETARY for Board of Directors. The duties include correspondence, travel arrangements, some personnel matters, dealing with visitors, preparing agenda and papers and taking minutes. There is scope for executive initiative. Candidates must have full secretarial skills including good shorthand, typing and audio ability.

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INTERVIEWER

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The successful applicant will also have special responsibility for sport, including the organisation of an annual Tennis Tournament as well as generally monitoring the sporting activities undertaken by our members throughout England, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

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This hectic position offers you the chance to meet people, get out and about to view properties and use your organisational skills. If you are outgoing, enjoy client contact and have good typing skills, then you have the job. Call Roz Staden on 01-828 8855 for further information. Drake Personnel (consultants).

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Salary in the range of £5,139 to £5,628 (including London Weighting); Lunchon Vouchers, generous leave.

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